



30 March 2022

Hon. Gavin Newsom, Governor
 State of California
 1021 O Street, Suite 9000
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Community Colleges
 6870-101-0001

Dear Governor Newsom:

As chancellors, superintendent/presidents, and college presidents of the California Community Colleges, we strongly support the first two priorities of the attached California Community Colleges coalition letter, dated March 18, 2022, which calls for a buy-down of our districts' escalating pension obligations and a \$300 million technology increase to base apportionment, the first in several investments to increase the base above COLA to achieve educational equity. We support both the requests and rationales as stated in the letter.

We also urge an adjustment to the fiscal year for the Hold Harmless or Minimum Revenue Provision of the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) from 2017-18 to 2021-22 as a necessary interim step to the Governor's proposed permanent rebenching to 2024-25. Adjusting the base level year from 2017-18 to 2021-22, and allowing for COLA on that figure until 2024-25, will directly benefit the many districts suffering from fiscal instability and enrollment declines. Current funding estimates indicate that this would prevent the loss of \$90 million in one-year stability funding for 41 districts by including it in the new 2021-22 year Hold Harmless funding floor.





Despite our regional differences and sometimes conflicting interests, this is an item upon which we solidly agree will have the greatest impact on helping us rebound from the volatility of the past few years. This approach enhances the January budget proposal and protects all districts from significant drops in funding from current year levels through 2024-25. In short, it provides a bridge to the future and allows all districts the time needed to engage and reengage students to help them to achieve their educational goals.

Attached to this letter is a mock-up of our proposed language, which we would hope to discuss with you. We would also like to share with you our findings on why we believe this is the most efficient way to help our institutions in this period of declining enrollment and social instability. We are extremely grateful to you for your long-term commitment to our colleges and for the ongoing interest in improving our funding formula to achieve educational equity and student success.

Please don't hesitate to contact Government Relations Director, Andrew Martinez, with any questions, (916) 662-4543, amartinez@cceleague.org. We appreciate your consideration of this timely request.

Sincerely,

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