

Governor s Proposed 2015-16 Augmentations for CCCs







disabilities, short-term CTE programs, and programs for apprentices. The Governor emphasizes the need for course offerings to be linked with regional economic needs and provide clear pathways to in-demand jobs. The Chancellor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction will jointly approve allocation of funds to each consortium, with an emphasis on providing funds to regions with the greatest need for adult education. Funds provided to each consortium will be allocated by a local allocation board designated by consortium members. Each consortium will be required to annually report its progress toward fulfilling adult education plans. One important provision is that, in order to ease the transition to the new program, funding will be provided to K12 districts in the amount of their maintenance of effort for adult education. Future funding would depend on consortium plans and reporting.

It should be noted that this proposal does not restrict any community college adult education offerings, whether credit or noncredit, currently funded through the base apportionment. The \$500M is proposed as funding in addition to existing CCC offerings.

Conclusion

Clearly, this budget proposal reflects the strong rebound in state revenues – which have primarily benefitted the Proposition 98 guarantee – that has occurred since the passage of Proposition 30.

While the 2015-16 year appears to be a strong one for the California Community Colleges, we need to remember that districts will face substantial challenges in the coming years due to increases in the STRS and PERS employer contribution rates. Further, these increases will need to be addressed by colleges as Proposition 30 revenues phase out (the sales tax provision expires on December 31, 2016 and the income tax provision expires two years later). Moreover, many districts also face large OPEB liabilities (not Hartnell). By proposing significant increases in discretionary resources, the Governor demonstrates his commitment to increasing local control while also providing districts with the funds they need to protect themselves for tougher times ahead.

