



North Orange County
Community College District

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2015-2016 **STATE** **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The North Orange County Community College District has identified six critically important state legislative priorities to focus advocacy efforts on for 2015-16. Each priority has been carefully chosen to focus on results that will favor the District's student population, faculty, and long-term sustainability.

1. Equalize the Faculty Obligation Number (FON) Formula.

A baseline number for each community college district's FON was established in 1988, and current law requires districts to increase the number of full-time faculty over the prior year in proportion to the amount of growth in funded credit Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES). Given that the baseline number was set almost 30 years ago, it only represents what was happening that year and has no basis on any real scientific or demographic parameters. The District has the third largest FON in the state even though the District is not the third largest in terms of students served. This has created large inequities in calculating the FON and the District is interested in actively exploring ways of improving the revenue-to-faculty ratio. The District appreciates the Governor and Administration including funding for full-time faculty in the 2015-16 Budget, however the inequalities of the FON have not been directly addressed.

Legislative Goals:

- Work in a coalition of stakeholders to create a new formula that equalizes districts across the State.
- Advocate in support of equalizing the FON through the state budget process.
- Lend our District as a resource to the statewide Chancellor's Office, Legislature, Governor's Office and Administration by offering to demonstrate and provide data about the FON's budget impacts on North Orange County Community College District.
- Design a proposal that would include non-credit instructors in the FON.

2. Support Policy for Increased Campus Safety.

Given several recent tragic events taking place on college campuses across the Nation, the District understands the importance of keeping students safe. The District believes in taking a proactive approach to addresses campus safety and mitigating all violence, including sexual assault and threats of sexual assault or violence on campus. The State Legislature has responded to the heightened awareness of campus safety by moving several bills through the legislative process that address different aspects of the issue.

Legislative Goals:

- Support legislation that assists in mental health services for students.
- Support creating more partnerships between mental health organizations and school campuses.
- Support legislation that allows the District more ability to directly address campus threats, sexual assault, and student safety.

3. Support Differential Funding for High Cost Vocational Classes.

Vocational classes allow our District to deliver a qualified workforce called forth by national and state mandates. Vocational classes respond directly to the educational needs of their respective communities, and contribute to a skilled workforce that, in turn, provides the economic vitality necessary for prosperity. Differential funding is needed to allay the high cost of these classes due to mandated low teacher-to-student ratios, high equipment and maintenance costs.

Legislative Goals:

- *Support the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in requesting additional support from the State for high cost, high demand career technical education programs through differential funding that can allay the increased cost of performing the services necessary for a college student to earn a certificate or degree.*
- *Support the work that the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Division of Workforce and Economic Development's "Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy" is doing on this issue.*
- *Advocate in support of legislation that would secure differential funding for necessary career technical education demand.*
- *Lend our District as a resource to the statewide Chancellor's Office, Legislature, Governor's Office and Administration by offering to demonstrate and provide data about what the costs are for North Orange County Community College District to run these classes.*

4. Support a Statewide School Facilities Bond or Other Facilities Maintenance.

Proposition 1D in 2006 was the last statewide school facilities bond. California faces a multi-billion dollar backlog in school and community college construction projects. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office outlines in the 2015-16 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan a total facilities need of approximately \$38.7 billion over the next 10 years for the construction of an additional 13.7 million assignable square feet of new facilities to meet enrollment growth and modernize 31.6 million assignable square feet of existing facilities. Locally, the District successfully passed Measure J in November 2014 which will provide \$574 million for critical facilities. In order to fully leverage local funds, the District supports a statewide facilities bond that could provide matching dollars for projects that will directly benefit student success. The District also supports any assistance the State can provide for facilities maintenance for community college districts.

Legislative Goals:

- *Advocate in support of legislation that would enact a statewide school facilities bond to be placed on the November 2016 ballot for the voters.*
- *Ensure that the District's projects are eligible under any new bond or facilities program proposal.*

5. Ensure Fair and Equitable Distribution of the Adult Education Block Grant.

The Governor's 2015-16 January Budget Proposal allocated \$500 million in a block grant to be distributed to the 70 Adult Education Regional Consortia created through AB 86. These funds are being used to implement the regional plans created by each consortium for adult education. Each year the Governor and Administration will need to include funding for this program to continue. The District has a vested interest in how funding is dispersed to ensure the community is being served to the fullest extent possible. There continues to be discussion about the potential of shifting noncredit apportionment into the Block Grant. This is something the District adamantly opposes.

Legislative Goals:

- Advocate for a fair and equitable distribution of the Block Grant.
- Advocate strong opposition to shifting noncredit apportionment into the Block Grant.

6. Support Policy and Funding to Strengthen Workforce Development

On November 17, 2014, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors commissioned the Workforce Task Force with a goal to increase individual and regional economic competitiveness by providing California's workforce with relevant skills and quality credentials that match employer needs and fuel a strong economy. This Task Force is to consider strategies and recommend policies and practices that would:

1. Prepare students for high-value jobs that currently exist in the State,
2. Position California's regions to attract high-value jobs in key industry sectors from other states and around the globe,
3. Create more jobs through workforce training that enables small business development, and
4. Finance these initiatives by braiding existing state and federal resources.

Research shows that a workforce skills gap is already a reality in California. The Public Policy Institute of California's research shows that in order to meet the projected gap in 2025, "college completion would need to increase to about 50 percent immediately." State policy needs to be favorable to encourage community colleges to partner with businesses to ensure regional workforce demand can be met. State funding needs to be allocated, when appropriate, to ensure colleges have the resources to create and enhance college-to-career pathways that meet regional workforce needs and contribute to a strong California economy.

Legislative Goals:

- Support the work that the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Division of Workforce and Economic Development's "Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy" is doing on this issue.
- Advocate in support of legislation that would encourage and provide resources to California Community Colleges to streamline pathways for students from school to college, and college to careers in a timely and successful manner



NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
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