

NOVEMBER



NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Legislative Priorities

2023

ANAHEIM CAMPUS

NOCCCD Leadership



Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland
Chancellor



Dr. Barbara Dunsheath
Trustee



Ed Lopez
Board President



Stephen T. Blount
Trustee



Evangelina Rosales
Board Vice President



Jacqueline Rodarte
Trustee



Jeffrey P. Brown
Board Secretary



Ryan Bent
Trustee



Kisha Mehta
Cypress College Student Trustee



Paloma Foster
Fullerton College Student Trustee

Cypress College

9200 Valley View St.
Cypress, CA 90630
cypresscollege.edu

Fullerton College

321 E. Chapman Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92832
fullcoll.edu

North Orange Continuing Education

noce.edu

Anaheim Campus
1830 W. Romneya Dr.
Anaheim, CA 92801

Cypress Center
9200 Valley View St.
Cypress, CA 90630

Wilshire Center
315 E. Wilshire Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92832

North Orange County Community College District

1830 W. Romneya Dr., Anaheim, CA 92801
noccdd.edu

State Legislative Priorities

The North Orange County Community College District has identified five critically important state legislative priorities to focus advocacy efforts on for 2023. Each priority has been carefully chosen to focus on results that will support the District's student population, staff, faculty, and long-term sustainability. These priorities allow staff and the District's advocates in Sacramento to act expeditiously on key State issues that impact the District and the students we serve; however, this is not an all-inclusive list of the issues the District will engage in and advocate on.



Meeting Labor Market Demands:

California Community Colleges (CCCs) partner with K-12 districts, universities, and industry to provide career ladder opportunities that are in direct response to the current labor market needs. It is vital that the State continues investments in the Strong Workforce Program, Guided Pathways Program, Dual Enrollment, Entrepreneurships, Apprenticeships and Career Education, so that we can ensure our students are trained, retrained, and prepared for the labor industries that are growing in our region. The District strongly supports ongoing investments and policies that support the CCCs in preparing our students for the workforce, boosting enrollment, and meeting labor market demands.



Basic Needs:

Student success is directly impacted by access to basic needs, such as food, housing, technology, transportation, childcare, and mental health services. The District strongly supports any policy and/or budget-related efforts aimed at increasing CCC students' ability to access basic needs and mental health services. The District supports maximum flexibility with the use of these funds, to best meet the individual needs of our students.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (DEIA):

The District is committed to DEIA initiatives with the goal of developing an interculturally proficient community of students, faculty, and staff. During these challenging times of racial tension across the country, the District supports policies that systemically dismantle racism, and further advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, equal opportunity, and inclusion efforts for CCCs.

Noncredit:

The District has one of the largest noncredit centers in California: North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE). NOCE serves over 25,000 students a year through such programs as high school diploma, English as a second language, parenting, and career certification classes. Historically, there have been several examples of statewide community college initiatives implemented that have not adequately considered the special administration challenges inherent to noncredit education, even when that inclusion would have been a valuable addition to the initiative. The District will continue to advocate for equitable legislative and regulatory consideration for noncredit students and programs. The District supports noncredit programs preserving the same level of access to all eligible funding sources, including the California Adult Education Program, Strong Workforce Program, and Student Equity and Achievement Program.



Long-Term Financial Stability:

The California Community College system has incurred a significant decline in enrollment due to the pandemic. While the District is working on reclaiming enrollment, we are aware that full recovery—if possible—will take many years. During this recovery period, it is critical that the State support the long-term financial stability of our system, including on-going financial investments in the PERS and STRS pension system. The State should also reevaluate the Faculty Obligation Number (FON) in a fair and equitable way.

Federal Legislative Priorities

The North Orange County Community College District has identified five critically important federal legislative priorities to focus advocacy efforts on for 2023. Each priority has been carefully chosen to focus on results that will support the District's student population, staff, faculty, and long-term sustainability. These priorities allow staff and the District's advocates in Washington, D.C. to act expeditiously on key federal issues that impact the District and the students we serve; however, this is not an all-inclusive list of the issues the District will engage in and advocate on.

Financial Aid:

Federal financial aid consists of student loans and need-based financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and Federal Work-Study. With a new Congress and the ongoing Biden Administration in place, we anticipate significant changes to federal financial aid, including increased student aid support through efforts to make community college free for students, as well as policy changes related to accreditation, regulation reform, student loans, and additional transparency. It is important during these policy debates that any changes to law reflect California's diverse student population and interests. The cost to attend community college in California encompasses much more than just fees. All of the support needed to ensure access and success for a student's ability to achieve their educational goals, such as transportation, childcare, textbooks, housing and food should be taken into account. The District will advocate to ensure all students, both noncredit and credit, are able to access federal emergency grants and/or resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic or otherwise.



Support for In-Person and Digital Learning:

The California Community College system underwent a major restructuring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with students shifting from all in-person courses to hybrid and distance learning options. The District has taken extraordinary measures to ensure students have the resources they need to be successful with distance learning, while also welcoming back students in person. The District supports policies and resources that assist students with digital literacy to ensure they can be successful in an online learning format. The District supports federal policies and financial resources to provide students with access to technology, including access to broadband connections, computers, and software. The District supports the need for resources that enable campuses to successfully transition courses to online and distance platforms, including the need for professional development, training, and technology support for staff and faculty.



Cybersecurity:

Recent enactment of federal laws has provided an opportunity for state and local governments to conduct cyber vulnerability assessments. The federal funds will be in the form of grants and are for assessing cyber vulnerabilities. The District will engage on cybersecurity as a topic of interest given the amount of sensitive personal information collected on students, and the vital role that the District plays in educating and developing the workforce in Orange County.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is conducting a rulemaking regarding cyber incident reporting, targeting disclosure of relevant cyber incidents and ransomware attacks. These topics will remain essential for the District to determine if it will be subject to further cyber incident reporting, as well as remaining eligible for future federal funds pertaining to cybersecurity. Given the increase in ransomware attacks, including on public school systems, there must be adequate investment in cybersecurity. Lastly, the need to have an auditable and secure system to verify student enrollments and corresponding financial and sensitive personal information is critical. The District supports policies and resources to implement safe cybersecurity measures.



Congressional Funding Requests:

The District will be poised to advance local projects with our Congressional Representatives by requesting priority funding through Congressional spending requests. These projects may be focused on a variety of District-wide matters, such as student transportation concerns, educational programming, or veteran educational-related issues. The District will advocate for the support of these critical projects by requesting federal funding to ensure implementation.



Support Advocacy Efforts for Undocumented Students:

NOCCCD is committed to serving all students who can benefit from a post-secondary education, without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, gender, language, socio-economic status, gender identity or expression, medical condition or disability. California's diversity is a great source of innovation and industry, making our state one of the largest economies in the world and an economic engine for the United States.

California is home to more than two million undocumented immigrants, and estimates find that approximately 75,000 undocumented students are enrolled in California's public and independent colleges and universities. Along with Governor Newsom and the California Community Colleges' Chancellor's Office, NOCCCD supports policy advocacy efforts that increase access and provide resources that support undocumented students' persistence in higher education, and urgently ask Congress to pass legislation to provide Dreamers with the permanent protection they need and deserve.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Kai Stearns

District Director, Public & Governmental Affairs

North Orange County Community College District

(714) 808-4829

Ashley Walker

Policy Advisor

Nossaman LLP

(916) 442-8888

noccdd.edu