

## The Math Behind the Maricopa Community Colleges Expenditure Limit

The mathematical formula for calculating the expenditure limit is expenses from the 1979 to 1980 fiscal year, multiplied by the full-time student equivalency factor, multiplied by the inflation factor in 1980.

The expenditure limit base for Maricopa Community Colleges was set at the amount we were spending that year to serve students, which was just over \$52 million each year after.

The amount is nothing more than a number in the formula and does not represent actual dollars being spent.

If a community college district exceeds its expenditure limit, it is subject to penalties based on a formula that was established 44 years ago.

This November, the ballot measure will provide voters with the option of permanently adjusting the initial base limit set in 1980 from just over \$52 million to just over \$105 million.

Additionally, it does not increase taxes or add any new funding to the budget.

It simply allows Maricopa Community Colleges the flexibility to continue using its existing budget without a long-term solution.

Maricopa Community Colleges would be forced to reduce its budget by up to \$100 million.

A lot of things have changed in the past 44 years, including the expenses of delivering current academic services and infrastructures associated with the high-impact workforce development programs that meet critical needs for Arizona's economy.

By permanently adjusting the base on which the expenditure limit is determined, Maricopa Community Colleges can continue supporting students across Maricopa County with flexible, high-quality, and affordable education.

Those opportunities include affordable bachelor's degree offerings, programs that support high school students, and high-impact workforce development programs that meet critical needs for Arizona's economy.

According to an economic impact study in 2023, the 10 Maricopa Community Colleges help support one out of every 28 jobs in Maricopa County, adding \$7.9 billion to the economy and helping fill critical needs of our workforce.

The ballot measure will be included in the upcoming November 5th election in 2024.

Please visit [Maricopa.edu/EL](https://maricopa.edu/EL) to learn more.