

Maricopa County Community Colleges District 2021 Legislative Agenda

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is one of the largest community college systems globally, proudly empowering 200,000 students annually to succeed by providing the education, training, and skills needed to thrive in tomorrow's economy. MCCCD has 10 colleges spanning across Maricopa County and is the largest workforce development provider in the state, adding \$7.2 billion in income to the state's economy in Fiscal Year 2017, the equivalent of 3 percent of the total gross regional product of Maricopa County. Recognizing the statewide and global impact of the District, MCCCD developed a 2021 legislative agenda to support the preservation, innovation, and expansion of programs that ensure students enrolled in our colleges are ready for the workforce of today and the workforce of tomorrow. The following categories of items are anticipated to arise during the next legislative session and are the positions of MCCCD's elected governing board.

Funding, Financial Supports, and Incentives

1. Support funding and expansion of Pre-K through 12 teacher preparation programs, including support for high school teachers to gain qualifications to provide college-level instruction.
2. Support full funding of statutory STEM workforce development formula for community colleges to support the growth of high demand occupational areas.
3. Support expanded scholarship opportunities and incentives for community college students, including adult basic education, short-term training to up- and re-skill, and for CTE students.
4. Support increase in lease/purchase capacity to 20 years and \$25M in any one year.
5. Support adjustments to Proposition 301 that are beneficial to community colleges.
6. Support efforts to clarify, and mitigate or limit financial impacts on Community Colleges from property assessment judgments such as the recent judgment in the Transwestern Pipeline case.

Policy and Operations

7. Support access to quality, affordable baccalaureate degrees at community colleges limited to high demand areas of the workforce.
8. Protect and expand local district authority and control in the administration of the colleges.
9. Support efforts to expand opportunities for high school students to enroll in community college courses through dual enrollment partnerships, such as lifting the dual enrollment cap on freshmen and sophomore students.
10. Maintain primacy of community colleges as providers of high school equivalency programs and support increased funding of those programs.
11. Support efforts to mitigate expenditure limitation impacts to better reflect the current economy, including revisions to the statutory "full-time student equivalent" calculations to better meet the needs of community college students, particularly with post-pandemic unemployment and enrollment rates.