

**California Community College Association for Occupational Education
Regional VP report
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Policy Update

\$60 million Strong Workforce carve-out

CCCAOE's legislative advocate Austin Webster is meeting today with members of the CCC Chancellor's office regarding how to regain the \$60 million a year that the legislature carved out of the state's Strong Workforce funding starting in with Fiscal Year 2025. He has not seen any advocates for the nursing programs that the funding was designed to support. One of the unresolved issues is the lack of clinical placements in the state. The governor's budget did not address this issue. New legislators may not be aware of the issue. The Association has made ending the carve-out its top legislative priority this year.

Pending legislation to watch

SB 960 (Cabaldon) Allows community college districts to offer a baccalaureate degree program within a CSU's local admission area only if the CSU program has been impacted for three consecutive years. CCCAOE board expected to support it.

AB 1534 (Irwin) Controls the distribution of Workforce Pell Grant funds in the state. It requires public and private educational to receive authorization from an unspecified state agency and obtain approvals that the institution meets all U.S. Department of Education requirements before distributing funds.

AB 1694 (Carrillo) This bill would change the distribution the \$300 million a year in the K12 California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program. Under the legislation, an applicant receiving a grant from the program in a prior fiscal year would receive a renewal grant for 3 additional years. Ninety percent of funds awarded would be designated for renewal grants and 10% designated for new applicants

Upcoming Events

Policy Summit 2026, March 3-4, 2026

The region has five members registered for the upcoming policy summit in Sacramento. They are: Devin Daugherty, Santa Barbara City College; Giselle Bice, K14 Technical Assistance Provider; Letty Rodriguez, Ventura College; and Robert Cabral and Mike Hoffman, both of Moorpark College. Our region still has room for three other members. Contact me for the link to register.

This is a day and a half of legislative activity including briefings on key legislation working its way through the system and in-person meetings with legislators and staff members.

CCCAOE Spring Conference 2026

April 21-24, at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento

Registration is open for the CCCAOE Spring Conference. Three days of key notes, breakouts, and vendor presence. The price is \$945, which includes breakfasts and lunches over several days.

Get your rooms reserved if you plan to attend. The conference will be fully back in the hotel this year, which makes it a little tighter for the vendors, but does give everyone wireless connections which we did not have at the convention center across the street.

Breakout sessions are being sought for the conference. If you and your college or school district are doing something that constitutes a best practice, we want to hear from you. Please check the CCCAOE website for details on submissions. The deadline is Feb. 27.