

California Community College Association for Occupational Education

Regional VP report

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Policy Update

(This information from Austin Webster, the CCCAOE legislative advocate.)

The Governor

The Governor released his final May Revise budget proposal Thursday, May 14. Overall, the state is benefiting from more than \$16.5 billion in tax revenue than anticipated and, as a result, has a balanced budget for the year

For the community colleges, our overall projected funding increased to just over \$16 billion. Below are a few key highlights of the proposal.

- **Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):** The May Revision includes a COLA of 4.31%, which is a significant increase from the 2.41% proposed in January. The 4.31 figure is a combination of the statutory COLA of 2.87% and a discretionary COLA of 1.44%.
- **Categorical Programs:** Select categorical programs will receive the statutory 2.87% cost-of-living adjustment, providing some additional support for these targeted initiatives. As with prior years, this will not apply to all categorical funds.
- **Enrollment Growth:** The budget includes \$2 million for enrollment growth funding, which will help support our efforts to expand access and serve more students. It is likely our system partners will push the Legislature for additional funding in this category.
- **Strong Workforce Program:** The Governor's May Revise did not explicitly mention SWP or the current carve out for Nursing. It is likely these changes will need to be negotiated in Trailer Bill Language. CCCAOE will continue to engage with the budget process as it moves along over the next month and continue to push for restoration of SWP. The Legislature's budget deadline is June 15.

Upcoming Events

CCCAOE Fall Conference 2026

October 13–16, 2026,

[Registration](#) is open for the CCCAOE Fall Conference at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa in Rancho Mirage. The conference theme is "Stronger Together," focusing on California career education, partnerships, and workforce development. The price is \$945. About 40 people are currently registered.

The hotel block at the Omni is also open. Make your reservations early as the block usually sells out early.

[Breakout session proposals](#) are currently being sought. If you have a best practice that you want to share at the conference, please submit a proposal by June 12.