

AHED DISPATCH

State and Federal News

In Case You Missed

It...

- The Assembly Budget Subcommittee - 2 Education Finance heard testimony from the California Student Financial Aid Commission, who provided an overview of the CalFresh workgroup progress. [Start video at 1:35:08](#) for the CalFresh presentation.
- [Asm. Berman and the Committee on the Master Plan hosted an information hearing on “The Transfer Process: A Conversation with California’s Higher Education Leaders”.](#)
- The Governor’s Council for Post-Secondary Education has issued [a report on how the state higher education system can recover with equity.](#)

NATIONAL

LA Times - [New Blow to SAT empire shows California’s key role in diminishing college admissions tests.](#)

Inside Higher Ed - [Biden extends break on repaying student loans.](#)

Chronicle - On March 11, President Biden signed the *American Rescue Plan Act* which allocated \$1.9 trillion in economic relief. For more information, go to [Higher Ed Under Biden-Harris: Live Updates.](#)

STATE

California Community College - [California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley Issues Statement on Approval of COVID-19 relief package.](#)

California State University - [Post- COVID Career Success: What it’s going to take.](#)

University of California - [A California University tries to shield an entire City from Coronavirus.](#)

Financial Aid - [Major expansion of Cal Grant Financial Aid proposed for State’s college students.](#)



Happy Birthday!

The 10th anniversary of SB 1140 and the Associate Degree for Transfer

The California Community Colleges (CCC) represent the heartbeat of our state’s higher education system. Open to the “top 100%,” each campus serves as a hub for innovation and learning within their communities – yet relatively low transfer rates have plagued the CCCs for decades. In 2009 the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy released a report titled [Crafting a Student-Centered Transfer Process in California: Lessons from Other States](#) (August 2009), which demonstrated how only a small percentage of students who begin in community college successfully transferred. The report recommended that the Legislature craft policy requiring the CCCs to develop an Associate Degree specifically for transfer.



Then - State Senator Alex Padilla authored [SB 1440 in 2010](#), which was chaptered and became law on January 1st, 2011. SB 1440, and subsequent clean-up legislation, required CCC districts to develop and grant an associate degree for transfer (ADT) that deemed the

Higher Education Crash Course

The Assembly Higher Education Committee is offering all staff the opportunity for a 30 minute crash course in higher education issues. Please email AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov to schedule your meeting!

student eligible for transfer into the CSU, when the student met specified course requirements. Completion of an ADT guarantees:

1. Admission with junior status to a CSU campus to a major determined to be similar to the ADT, but not to a specific campus or major.
2. No additional lower-division CSU coursework.
3. No more than 60 semester units of upper-division CSU coursework to complete a bachelor's degree that, in addition to the 60 units completed at community college, results in a 120-unit pathway to a bachelor's degree.
4. Priority admission at the CSU.

The ADT program is a cornerstone of the CCC's Vision for Success, which calls for the CCC to increase their transfer rate by 35%. In 2018-2019, the CCCs transferred over 25,000 more students than at the same period a decade prior – and many of these students moved on to their next school with an ADT in hand and on their resume.

Facts About Financial Aid

Did you know that the Legislature appropriates more than \$2 billion annually toward financial aid making California a state that provides the best financial aid to students?

Over 400,000 students are expected to receive a Cal Grant this year. Financial aid is critical to providing access to higher education for low-income students, and research continues to underscore the importance of the Cal Grant program: a study published in February of 2019 in the [American Economic Journal](#), found that Cal Grant increases persistence in college, degree attainment, and post-college earnings.

Despite the state's significant investment and strong evidence of the benefits of financial aid, there is significant consensus among higher education stakeholders that California's aid programs are too complicated, exclude too many needy students, and do not adequately address the costs that today's students face; major factors contributing to rising student debt and suboptimal outcomes.

All three public segments (the CCC, CSU, and UC) report slower time-to-degree and lower graduation rates for low-income students, compared to their peers. For California college students that graduate with debt, the average debt is \$21,485 according to research by The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS). Additionally, there is evidence that low-income students borrow more. For example, at UC, nearly 60% of students with \$56,000 to \$112,000 in household income borrow, and at CSU, nearly 8 in 10 graduates with debt come from households with family incomes of \$54,000 or less.

Chairs José Medina (Assembly Higher Education Committee), Kevin McCarty (Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2) and Connie Leyva (Senate Education Committee) have introduced [AB 1456](#). This measure seeks, in part, to have more students benefit from the Cal Grant system, by eliminating many barriers students' face, simplifying the system, and addressing financial aid assistance for the total cost of attendance, not just tuition aid.

If you have financial aid related questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Committee.

Budget Update

On February 18, 2021, the Legislature came to an agreement with the Governor to take early action and provide funding for the re-opening of schools.

For complete details on the budget deal please see [AB 85 \(Committee on Budget\)](#). The bill was signed by the Governor and Chaptered on February 23, 2021. The bill contains the following appropriations for Higher Education:

- \$28.8 million for county administrative and outreach costs associated with CalFresh benefits to students enrolled in higher education institutions.
- \$2.93 million for CalFresh outreach to students at the UC and the CSU.
- \$123.1 million to the CCC to increase student retention, to increase CalFresh outreach to CCC students, and to provide emergency financial

Ask a Consultant

We continue in our quest to be a valuable resource to all staff and we are reserving this space for questions you may have for the Consultants of the Higher Education Committee. Feel free to submit your questions to AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov.

Thank you for reading!

