

## State News

EdSource - [New report: California must address imbalance of too many eligible students and not enough slots at UC and CSU.](#)

LA Times - [California college students live in vans and hotels as campus housing plans spark backlash.](#)

Inside Higher Ed - [COVID -19 Changes Plans for Next Semester.](#)



### CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES (CCC)

Ed Source - [Dramatic enrollment drop won't cost California community college state aid but could impact adjunct faculty.](#)

Ed Source - [Long Beach City College offers students safety while sleeping in their cars.](#)



### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

CalMatters - [Cal State and faculty union make a deal.](#)

CSU Chancellor's Office - [365 days of student success. See how the CSU spent them.](#)



### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

Ed Source - [University of California sticks with test-free admissions, won't replace SAT and ACT with new standardized test.](#)

UC News - [President Michael V. Drake, M.D., reflects on an extraordinary year.](#)

# AHED DISPATCH

## 2021 Legislative Overview

Despite COVID -19 and bill limits, the Assembly Committee on Higher Education had a busy year passing an array of bills that sought to alleviate the impacts of COVID - 19 on college students throughout the State of California. In our 2020-2021 Mid-Session Legislative report, the committee provided an overview of all the bills which were either heard or held by the Committee in the first year of the session.

Overall higher education proposals had a very successful year with only four bills being vetoed by the Governor. A slew of bills were signed into law and ran a gamut of themes; below, are a list of bills the Committee seeks to highlight for our readers:

- AB 367 (Cristina Garcia) Menstrual products - requires the CSU and the CCC and encourages the UC, independent universities and private universities to stock an adequate supply of free menstrual products at no fewer than one designated and accessible central location on each campus.
- AB 417 (McCarty) Rising Scholars Network - Authorizes the CCC Chancellor's Office to establish a program the Rising Scholars Network, for services in support of postsecondary education for justice - involved students.
- AB 927 (Medina) Statewide Baccalaureate Degree Program - Removes the cap on the total number of baccalaureate degree programs allowed within the CCC system and eliminates the January 1, 2027 sunset hereby permanently authorizing the CCC system to offer baccalaureate degrees.

### *In case you missed it*

- The [Assembly Budget Committee](#) and the [Senate Budget Committee](#) have both issued budget priorities for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- The [California Community Colleges](#), [The California State University](#), and the [University of California](#) have all submitted budget proposals for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
- The Legislative Analyst's Office published the [2022-2023 Budget: California Fiscal Outlook](#).
- The Public Policy Institute of California published two reports on higher education:
  - [Community College Math in California's New Era of Student Access](#).
  - [Keeping College Affordable for California Students](#).

### *Higher Education Crash Course.*

The Assembly Higher Education Committee is offering a half-hour crash course on higher education issues to any staffer. Please email [AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov).

- AB 928 (Berman) Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021 - Requires the CSU and the UC to jointly establish a singular lower division general education pathway for transfer admission into both segments; requires the CCC to place students who declare a goal of transfer on an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway for their intended major; and established the ADT Intersegmental Implementation Committee to serve as the primary entity charged with oversight of the ADT.

For a full accounting of bills heard and held in the Assembly Higher Education Committee, please see our [2021-22 Mid-Session Legislative Report](#).

## 2021 Budget Overview

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and continued economic uncertainty, the 2021-2022 Budget saw unprecedented levels of state and federal funding for higher education. At the end of the Budget session, the Legislature allocated more than \$75 billion for higher education initiatives including expanding Cal Grant availability to community college students regardless of age and time out of school, new work-place learning opportunities, and grants to assist in the affordability of education for displaced workers and students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each higher education segment received funding well above the 2020 funding levels for basic operations and received additional funding for specific research and investments in COVID-19 recovery.

The UC received \$46.3 billion including funding for research, immigration legal services, student mental health resources, and summer financial aid. The state provided \$11.45 billion to the CSU for operational supports including transforming a campus into a polytechnic university, providing student mental health resources, and expanding basic needs supports to students as part of the Graduation Initiative 2025. The CCC system received \$12.2 billion in funds; which includes funding for student basic needs, retention strategies, guided pathways programs, work-place learning opportunities, and the California Apprenticeship Initiative. Details on final funding levels and new programs established by the budget please visit the [Department of Finance website](#).

**The AHED Committee would like to highlight the winners of our crossword puzzle challenge:**

**Maria Morales, Lesley Brizuela, and Jacob Rivera.**

**Thank you for reading! Happy New Year!**

### Consultant Corner

Get to know the AHED Committee Consultants.



**What are some of the topics you cover for the Committee?**

**Jeanice** - The UC, CSU, Independent Colleges and Universities, Financial Aid, and Textbooks.

**Kevin** - Private Postsecondary Education, Military and Veteran issues, College Athletics, Title IX, Infrastructure, and Intersegmental Coordination.

**Ellen** - CalFresh, Budget, CCC, and Student Basic Needs.

**What book are you reading right now?**

**Jeanice** - *Where I Was From* by Joan Didion

**Kevin** - *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss

**Ellen** - *Circe* by Madeline Miller

**Topics you think will be a priority in 2022?**

**Jeanice** - Financial Aid Reform and Affordable Student Housing.

**Kevin** - Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19, Sunset review for the Bureau of Postsecondary Education; and ongoing infrastructure issues.

**Ellen** - Closing education equity gaps and increasing access to basic needs support.