



The California Community College Initiative *“The chance for every Californian to go to college”*

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the California Community College Initiative?

The Community College initiative gives every Californian the chance to go to college. It makes community college education more affordable by cutting fees to \$15 per unit and limiting future fee increases; stabilizes funding for community colleges; establishes an Independent system of public community college districts and Board of Governors; and it's not a bond and does not raise taxes.

How would this measure help our community colleges?

Stable and secure funding for an increasing student population will help ensure community colleges have the resources they need to educate students and train our workforce. The initiative guarantees minimum funding for community colleges based on growth. Reducing fees to \$15 per unit gives every Californian a chance to go to college.

Why are community colleges important?

Community colleges provide opportunities for a better life for millions of Californians. More than 70% of students taking college classes in California are taking them at community colleges. There are 109 Community Colleges all over California, with another 64 off-campus centers. That means there's a place to take classes nearby wherever some one lives or works. Community college students who earned a vocational degree or certificate saw their wages jump from \$25,600 to \$47,571 three years after earning their degree.

How does this initiative relate to Prop. 98?

This initiative does for community colleges what Prop. 98 funding did for public schools – it stabilizes funding for both.

How will this initiative be funded? Will it raise taxes?

This initiative does not raise taxes and is not a bond. It stabilizes funding by calculating the minimum community college funding guarantee based on community college growth.

How does this measure help community college students?

In 2004 when fees were raised to \$26 per unit, 305,000 students fewer students than expected enrolled. Reducing fees helps give every Californian a chance to go to college. By making college education even more affordable, students will have increased opportunities to pursue degrees or enhanced workforce training, thereby making a better life for themselves and their families.

Who attends community colleges?

Community colleges serve a diverse population of students of all racial backgrounds. The average student age is 28 and 60% of the student population is female. 30% of all Latinos in the United States of America who are attending college today are enrolled in a California Community College. And there are 90,000 more African American students in community colleges than in both the CSU and UC systems combined. 250,000 Californians from Asian and Pacific Islander backgrounds are enrolled in the Community Colleges. Community college students look like California.

Who supports this initiative?

The Community College Initiative is supported by a broad coalition of community college leaders, advocates, local trustees and students – including the California Federation of Teachers, the Community College League of California, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, the California School Employees Association and the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild.

How does this initiative help California's economy?

By offering more affordable and accessible academic and vocational education for both recent high school graduates and those returning to school, this initiative helps community colleges advance California's economic growth by continuously improving the state's workforce and providing a gateway to a better life for millions of Californians. The system's contribution in 2005-06 to the state's workforce included more than 63,000 associate degrees and certificates in vocational/occupational areas. California needs 3.2 million new college-educated workers—nurses, teachers, engineers and others—to keep our competitive edge and community colleges can help meet that need.

How can I get involved or get more information?

Visit www.CaliforniansForCommunityCollege.org for more information on how to get involved.