



Legislative Update

August 2023



VPLA Update

Hello all! With Legislators returning from summer recess, we are making the final push for 2023 and preparing for next year.

This newsletter covers important pending state and federal public policy, advocacy efforts, events, and more. We met with and will continue meeting with system partners, advocacy partners, and constituents to further our mission of making community colleges more equitable. As always, I am happy to answer any questions or assist you to spread the word and understand our efforts at local campuses. If there's anything you'd like to see included in these newsletters, please send your feedback to vpla@sccc.org!

-Chanelle Win, Vice President of Legislative Affairs

Register for SSCCC's Advocacy Academy on December 1-3, 2023

The SSCCC's Advocacy Academy is scheduled for December 1-3, 2023 at the Riverside Convention Center.

The Advocacy Academy theme is **"From Campus to Capitol and Every Step in Between."** This event will prepare you to advocate at the campus, local governing board, state, and federal levels. Through this conference we will equip student leaders with the tools to **advocate efficiently** and **understand the key issues** facing California community colleges, including affordable housing, financial aid, and transfer.

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SSCCC's 2023 - 2024 Legislative Priorities: *Consolidating What We Have, Creating What We Need*

The SSSCC Board of Directors met on August 12th and approved the 2023 - 24 Legislative Priorities. We followed a similar theme from last year as the state budget will likely remain tight, "Consolidating What We Have, Creating What We Need."

Our priorities are based on SSSCC's mission, resolutions from the Spring 2023 General Assembly, the Higher Education Student Coalition Report, and the ever-evolving environment of the California Community Colleges.

In a time of economic uncertainty and the state's projected decrease in revenue, it is critical that the SSSCC protect the investments made by the Newsom Administration and Legislature to the California Community College (CCC) system.

SSCCC's priorities are:

- Protecting investments in CCC's basic needs infrastructure and making college affordable
- Informing policymakers from the perspective of the diverse CCC student body
- Expanding student enfranchisement in the CCC system
- Ensuring student success and emphasizing pathways to workforce, transfer, and degree attainment

These priorities aim to ensure equitable access to college and student success after enrollment and graduation. Check out [this link](#) for more details about the 2023 - 24 priorities. Reach out to vpla@ssccc.org for questions, comments, or concerns about the SSSCC's legislative priorities.

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The workshops will follow the following themes:

- Be an advocate for change
- Leadership and empowerment
- Intersectionality, inclusivity, and equality
- Building community

Please share this date with your student body association (SBA) to plan your attendance and coordinate with your college's students and region.

Register at the link [here](#).



Bills to Watch

Most fiscal bills are currently in the suspense files of the Appropriations Committees. Bills that survive suspense will head to the Senate or Assembly floors and then the Governor's desk.

The SSCCC's stances on bills are as follows:

- **AB 1543 (M. Fong):** Community colleges: student representation fees. **SPONSOR**
 - AB 1543, by Mike Fong, commencing with the 2024–25 academic year, would require the other \$1 of the \$2 student representation fee to be used to establish and support the operations of local student body organization and would give students the right to refuse the \$1 dollar of the \$2 dollar fee. **The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Suspense File.**
- **AB 1541 (M. Fong):** Community colleges: governing board membership: student members. **SPONSOR**
 - AB 1541, by Mike Fong, would give each student member of the governing board of a community college district an advisory vote in comparison to existing law. **AB 1541 was signed by the Governor on July 21st, 2023!** We thank Asm. Mike Fong and his office for their continuous support for community college students.
- **AB 1275 (Arambula):** Community colleges: student-run community college organizations: open meetings: teleconferences. **SPONSOR**
 - This bill would create certain exemptions for existing Brown Act teleconferencing laws for student-run organizations. **The bill was pulled from the Senate Government and Finance Committee hearing by the author and is a two-year bill.** Even though this bill did not make it out this year, we urge everybody to request support from your local campuses and administrators to aid students with the necessary resources to continue ensuring student participation in meetings.
- **AB 1749 (McCarthy, Berman) -** Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act: the University of California. **CO-SPONSOR**
 - This bill would require that a student who earns an associate degree for transfer be deemed eligible for transfer into a University of California baccalaureate degree program if they meet certain requirements. **This bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

- **SB 467 (Portantino)** - Community College Apprenticeship or training programs. **CO-SPONSOR**
 - This bill would prohibit a student from being denied admission to a community college apprenticeship or internship training program because the student uses an individual tax identification number for purposes of the background check required by the class or program. **This bill was signed by the Governor on July 13, 2023!** We thank Senator Portantino and his team for their continuous support of community college students.
- **AB 789 (Berman)** - Student Financial Aid: Cal Grants: Satisfactory Academic Progress **CO-SPONSOR**
 - This bill would require an institution to comply with requirements regarding “satisfactory academic progress” standards used to determine if a student qualifies for a Cal Grant and to develop and implement policies defining the standards consistent with the federal standards to inform students of their eligibility. **It is currently in the Senate Appropriations Suspense file.**
- **AB 689 (Careillo)** - Community Colleges: enrollment and registration: incumbent healthcare workers. **OPPOSE**
 - The bill would require a community college with a limited enrollment course or program to ensure that at least 15 percent of the admitted students are incumbent healthcare workers. **This bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Suspense file.**

For more information about SSCCC’s bill stances, see the [LAC Master Spreadsheet](#).

