



West Valley - Mission

Community College District

2020-2021 POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

STUDENT AFFORDABILITY, HOUSING ACCESS, AND FOOD INSECURITY

Silicon Valley is one of the most expensive regions to live and financial aid is grossly inadequate. As a result, students bear more of the burden, making affordability to attend community college more important than ever.

HOUSING

- Consider opportunities to create sustainable and effective public/private partnerships to address students' housing access challenges.

FOOD INSECURITY

- Reduce student food insecurity by pursuing funding sources that expand and support food pantry services and aid.

FINANCIAL AID

- Equitably fund Pell and Cal Grants for community college students. Adequate financial aid enables students to take more classes, reduces time to graduation, makes college affordable, and degrees more likely to be obtained. It's time to expand Cal Grants and increase access to Pell Grants.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

- 1 in 5 students lack consistent access to computers and the internet. Create opportunities for student access to online technology that enables student participation, engagement, and achievement.

INCREASE FLEXIBLE SPENDING TO ACHIEVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND QUALITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

PRESERVE BASIC AID FUNDING STATUS

- Continue to advocate state increased funding to support workforce development, equity initiatives and categorical programs.

STATE CHANCELLOR'S VISION FOR SUCCESS

- WVM established goals in alignment with the Vision for Success and state funding-related student success measures as follows:
 1. Increase within the district by at least 20% the annual number of students who acquire associates degrees, credentials, certificates, or specific skill sets that prepare them for workforce needs.
 2. Increase within the district by 35% the number of students transferring annually to a UC or CSU.
 3. Decrease the average number of units accumulated by students earning associate's degree in the district to 79 or fewer.
 4. Increase to 76% or more, the percent of career technical education (CTE) students who report being employed in their field of study upon exiting a college in the district.
 5. Reduce equity gaps across all of the above measures by 40% with the goal of fully closing those achievement gaps within 10 years.
- Flexibility of funding sources and streams are needed to accomplish the Vision for Success goals necessary to continue serving students equitably within the Basic Aid model

CAMPUS CLIMATE AND SAFETY

We remain committed to the importance of providing a campus climate that focuses on diversity and equal access not only as a moral imperative, but also as a matter of workforce preparation, economic development and international competitiveness. It is in our community's interest as a whole that every member of our society be provided the opportunity to develop and thus contribute to the greater common good.

Additionally, we support the more than 11 million undocumented individuals within the U.S. that were brought into the country as children, and know no other homeland than America. This group deserves access to higher education and a pathway to legal status. We support passage of state and federal legislation to enable such students to participate in higher education and map out a strategy for legalization. In addition, states should have the full authority to set tuition policy for undocumented students.

We are committed to providing professional development opportunities to our staff, faculty focused on providing a safe, diverse, and accessible campus and educational experience.

Lastly, we also have a responsibility to provide open, safe and supportive learning venues for the entire campus community. We are committed to doing all we can to create ideal environments for students, faculty and staff, and will be particularly focused on the following specific challenges:

CAMPUS SAFETY

- Support opportunities for additional funding and programming that supports ongoing safety and emergency preparedness planning and training for planned and unplanned events such as COVID-19.

CAMPUS DIVERSITY AND EDUCATING UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

- Support policies that maximize an inclusive campus environment for all students, veteran students, faculty and staff.
- Support policies that provide funding for each of our two recognized minority serving colleges.
- Support legislation to create a pathway for legalization for individuals brought to the U.S. as children.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Support increased funding and flexibility of programming to provide students with access to counseling, mental and physical health services.