

Textbook Affordability Subcommittee Report for ASGC Meeting of 13 November 2025

Subcommittee Updates

- CCCCO/OERI: Funding reports and materials updating in Cool4Ed (in December); [OERI webinars ongoing](#).
- [ZTC website](#): “Z-Pathways” section launching this semester. Overall refresh of the ZTC website is complete!
- October meeting focus: Student success, equity, and instructional materials; review Spring 2025 student survey data; explore e-book subscription equity options
- [Minutes from the last TAS meeting](#) are at the end of this report. You can also find them on the [TAS website](#).

Fall 2025 ZTC/LTC Course Statistics

With census now complete for all late-start ZTC and LTC courses, the statistics are quite impressive and show the consistent importance of ZTC and LTC courses.

1. ZTC: 155 sections of 96 courses
2. LTC: 31 sections of 13 courses (record number of sections!)
3. 5,305 enrolled (duplicated) students
4. \$738,900 in estimated savings (record!)
5. 95 unique faculty (44.19% of instructors) (record!)

This success stems from strong administrative support, consistent messaging at department meetings and growing student demand. I'm able to do more outreach to faculty in this new position, which means that for Spring 2026 we should exceed these numbers. As courses are being updated for Common Course Numbering, there will be even more that are converted to ZTC, with some viewing LTC possibilities. We also got the bulk of our ZTC/LTC courses for Spring 2026 marked ahead of registration, so that should help expand our reach further.

TAS thanks all our faculty, staff and administrators for your continued support in this work. So keep spreading the word and supporting your faculty in this work!

ZTC Adopter Program

The Textbook Affordability Solutions Workgroup (TASW) is the collection of ZTC leads across the District. We're working together to rework our respective 'ZTC adopter-type programs' so that they are in alignment with respect to payment, time expectations to complete assignments and training. This comes as the District has informed us that we can no longer offer awards for work, due to CalPERS and CalSTRS restrictions. As a result, we're working on the following pieces:

- Training would likely be done districtwide, much like QOTL training is done. TASW is still working on exact training models, but most likely would include a micro-course to learn the very basics of OER, then lead to trainings based on the ASCCC OERI trainings (OER Basics, Accessibility Basics).
- The types of projects will be mildly revamped to better address needs and work to be done. One best-practice model that the ASCCC OERI has been showcasing is the one that [MiraCosta](#) has set up. TASW would probably not support simple course adoption or easy textbook swap, as our District doesn't support that work for publisher materials currently.

TAS will be discussing this further in our November meeting. Come join us!

Spring 2025 ZTC/LTC Student Survey

The full reveal of the data that was pulled from the [Spring 2025 ZTC/LTC Student Survey](#). TAS reviewed the data slides and came away with the following comments (you can see the full comments in the [TAS October Minutes](#)):

- Overall, the students are seeing the positive impact of this ZTC/LTC work and they're pretty satisfied with the materials.
- Affordability still is a big factor as to why students are looking for ZTC/LTC courses. Being able to access the materials in multiple formats and because OER and Library-based resources are accessible for those who use adaptive technology. But there are still some gaps; TAS wants to get Instructional Designer Jenny McGuire more involved, especially with Canvas-based materials.
- There's less knowledge about support services (e.g. Tech Tutors), but such support is needed and being sought after.
- Awareness of ZTC/LTC courses is rising but still needs to be addressed. (The current WebSchedule is not helping us!) More help from Marketing and ASCC is needed.

Sarah Harmon is discussing these data with ASCC on 12 November; she hopes to bring the presentation to IPC, PDPC and EAPC in an upcoming meeting. She'll also be sharing the data with a number of groups across the campus, including program coordinators and student support groups to see how to close some of the gaps that were noted in the survey. More on this in the coming months!

Fall 2025 District-wide Affordable Instructional Materials Student Survey

SMCCCD has been a leading district in addressing the cost of instructional materials. From a slew of zero-textbook-cost (ZTC) and low-textbook-cost (LTC) courses to the creation of multiple zero-cost degree and certificate pathways, our three colleges continue to showcase the need to address the burdensome cost of textbooks, homework platforms, and other elements that constitute instructional materials.

To that end, the Textbook Affordability Solutions Workgroup (TASW) routinely runs student surveys across the district to directly hear from students. Their perspectives and shared realities have helped us petition for ZTC funding from the Board of Trustees and gain support from our administrators to continue this work. The voices of the students have helped us to make the case that increasing our ZTC and LTC offerings is needed, particularly in a region that is increasingly unaffordable to so many.

The survey is open now. We're closing the survey at the end of the month, on 30 November 2025. You can give students the [direct link to the survey](#). We'll report preliminary findings in Spring, particularly during Open Education Week (March 2nd through 6th).

CCCCO ZTC Grant Updates

- Cañada's reports on how we have spent all of our ZTC allocations is due 31 December 2025. We'll include those figures in the February 2026 report, which will be the next report after the due date.

Reminder about Textbook Adoptions and SB 893

- ***Make sure to get your Spring Textbook Adoptions into Jai (and Sarah for ZTC/LTC) as soon as possible!*** Technically, they're due on 10 October (or thereabouts), but we need them as soon as possible to update WebSchedule and the Bookstore's records.
- SB 893, the legislation that allows the District to fund the Free College Initiative, has specific restrictions with respect to how students in the program can purchase their course materials.
 - SB 893 textbook funds are **only** available for materials that can be purchased through the college bookstore.
 - SB 893 covers textbook costs for students who show financial need and/or who are eligible for the non-resident tuition waiver.
- The more courses and sections that are converted to ZTC or LTC, the further these dollars can go!

- If you're using ZTC materials—especially those that are open-source—you can make a print option copy available. That way, your students can use their financial aid funds to purchase that print copy. Ask Jai for more info!

Meetings

Our next meeting will be 25 November, 1-2pm via [Zoom](#). We'll focus on the ZTC Adopter Program and ways that Professional Development can play a part in training faculty in this work. Come join us!

ASCCC OERI News and Events

OER adoption data

OERI is refreshing commonly used OER and needs faculty to report current adoptions; quick-report links are embedded in the OER by Discipline pages and the [searchable OER-by-C-ID table](#). Suggestions for resources to add can be submitted via the [OERI suggestion form](#).

OERI Discipline Leads – Faculty Opportunities

OERI continues recruiting Discipline Leads (priority on C-ID-mapped areas). Leads receive **\$600 per term** for completing assigned tasks and are eligible to receive a stipend for taking the OERI's courses. [Read more about the Discipline Lead role and application process.](#)

The OERI is presently recruiting Leads for the following disciplines but are always happy to consider other disciplines:

- Addiction Studies; Alternative Fuels/Advanced Transportation; Automotive; Commercial Music; Dental Assistant; Digital Media; Electronics; Emergency Medical Services; Fire Technology; Health Information Technology; Hospitality; Office Technology/BIW; Water & Wastewater; Welding.

Featured Events: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Distance Education (DE), and Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA)

OER & AI Office Hours — Thursdays Nov 6, 13, 20, 12:00–1:00 (no session Nov 27). Drop in chat to ask questions about OER and AI. Topics can include attribution/citation, ethical considerations, hypothetical, practical, and discipline-specific scenarios.

[Register for the November 6, 13, and 20 OER and AI Office Hours](#)

OER & Distance Education Office Hour — Wed, Nov 12, 12:00–1:00. Conversation on platforms, pedagogy, policies, and practices at the OER-DE intersection.

[Register for OER and DE Office Hour](#)

Beyond the Discussion Board: Reimagining Online Conversations with Discuss-It

Wednesday, November 12, 2:00–3:00 pm: Introduces *Discuss-It*, an OER tool in LibreTexts' ADAPT platform that enables **multimedia discussions** (audio, video, and text) to increase student presence and engagement.

[Register for Beyond the Discussion Board: Reimagining Online Conversations with Discuss-It](#)

Teaching with Artificial Intelligence (AI): Practical Tools for Biology Instructors

Friday, November 14, 9:30–10:30 am: Explores practical AI applications that support instruction in biology courses, including using AI to generate visuals, examples, and customized instructional materials rooted in open educational resources. Designed to help faculty enhance clarity and accessibility when teaching complex biological concepts.

[Register for Teaching with AI: Practical Tools for Biology Instructors](#)

Applying the Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Framework to OER: Economics

Wednesday, November 19, 12:00–1:00 pm: Demonstrates how to apply the IDEA Framework to evaluate,

revise, or create OER in Economics. Participants examine what inclusive and anti-racist OER looks like in practice and learn a structured approach that can be adapted to any discipline to improve representation, student belonging, and content relevance.

[Register for the Applying the IDEA Framework to OER: Economics](#)

November OERI Friday Forums

Open Educational Resources and Burden-Free Access to Instructional Materials Policy Development
Friday, November 7, 10:30–11:30 am: Overview of Title 5 §54221 and what “burden-free access” means in practice. Discussion focuses on creating local policies that ensure students have needed materials on day one while preserving instructor academic freedom.

[Register for OER and Burden-Free Access to Instructional Materials Policy Development](#)

Making Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Data Available with Data Dashboards
Friday, November 21, 10:30–11:30 am: Demonstrates how colleges can use ZTC/LTC data dashboards to track textbook cost impact, student enrollment patterns, and success/persistence outcomes. Includes guidance on implementing and customizing dashboards locally.

[Register for Making ZTC Data Available With Data Dashboards](#)

Discipline & Course-Area Conversations

Geography Study Afield: Sharing Our Favorite Field Study Locations
Wed, Nov 12, 3:30–4:30: Faculty share field study sites and discuss openly licensing teaching resources connected to place-based learning.

[Register for Geography Study Afield: Sharing Our Favorite Field Study Locations](#)

American Sign Language (ASL): Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and Open Educational Resources (OER)
Fri, Nov 14, 11:00–12:00: Conversation on available and developing ASL OER and strategies to support ZTC course design.

[Register for ASL: ZTC and OER](#)

Open Educational Resources (OER) and Geology: Expansion to all Earth Sciences
Tue, Nov 18, 12:30–1:30: Discussion on broadening geology OER to include marine, atmospheric, planetary, and other Earth system sciences.

[Register for OER and Geology: Expansion to all Earth Sciences](#)

Envisioning Open Educational Resources (OER) throughout the Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) in Elementary Teacher Education: Integrated Programs

Wed, Nov 19, 2:00–3:00: Collaborative session to identify which courses within the AA-T pathway should be prioritized for discipline page representation.

[Register for Envisioning OER throughout the AA-T Elementary Teacher Education: Integrated Programs](#)

Philosophy Open Educational Resources (OER) for Logic, Critical Thinking, and Writing
Fri, Nov 21, 9:30–10:30: Overview of OER supporting combined logic/critical thinking courses aligned with the Cal-GETC pattern.

[Register for Philosophy OER for Logic, Critical Thinking, and Writing](#)

Mathematics and Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours
Q&A support for math OER adoption and MyOpenMath use.

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Friday, November 7, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Tuesday, November 18, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Monday, December 8, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm](#)

Physics and Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours

Drop-in support for Physics OER and MyOpenMath integration. Meetings will occur on select Tuesdays from 10-11am and Fridays from 9-10am.

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on November 7, 11, 21, and 25](#)

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on December 5 and 9](#)

Textbook Affordability Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for 28 October 2025, 1-2pm, via [Zoom](#)

Attendance

- Present: Amira Alkeswani, Leonor Cabrera, Sarah Harmon, Jai Kumar, Carlos Luna, Marina Noel, Anniqua Rana
- Absent: Chialin Hsieh, Nada Nekrep

Agenda

- I. Introductions and Welcome (5 minutes; Information)
 - a. Welcome new members: Amira, Leonor and Marina!
- II. Updates (10 minutes; Information/Discussion)
 - a. CCCCCO ZTC Grant Updates/CCCCO
 - i. Not much to report at this time.
 - ii. Sarah will be submitting the next big report in December. More on that soon.
 - iii. The Burden Free Instructional Materials memo went out to college administrators. Cañada/SMCCCD is already in compliance with most everything. The Board Policy and Administrative Procedure on Burden-Free Instructional Materials
 - b. Updates from the OERI
 - i. Many [workshops and webinars](#) coming out; more information to come!
- III. [Spring 2025 ZTC/LTC Student Survey Results](#) (30 minutes; Information)
 - a. Slide 8 notes, on how much student spend on course materials and all other materials for their courses
 - i. CTE programs are still a gap, but Sarah and Library are working with Interior Design to get more of their courses ZTC.
 - ii. Professional development and training of faculty is highlighted here. We should share these data to capture that this training and work is having an impact on students
 - iii. The data show the need to have district-wide connections on Library resources, particularly with respect to vendors. This should help us with further funding of Library e-resources.
 - b. Slides 15-19 notes, on students' comments about ZTC/LTC materials
 - i. OpenStax, PressBooks and LibreTexts all have PDF download options that render accessible PDFs. Faculty need to be made aware of this, and then tell their students, so that students have off-line access to the text.
 - ii. We need faculty voices on how they find ZTC/LTC materials easy to use—let's look into running a faculty voice survey in the Spring.
 - iii. Accessibility gaps indicate that we need more training, including connecting faculty with Jenny McGuire (our Instructional Designer who focuses on accessibility).
 - iv. Marina ran a student survey in her own two courses, focusing on the OpenStax texts that she uses. Very positive responses, in line with what this survey suggests. They also liked the ancillary materials that come with it.
 - v. Amira noted that more support is needed for Canvas-based materials.
 - c. Slide 22 notes, on the tech tutors and other support
 - i. Clearly, we need to connect students and faculty to the Learning Center more, and repeatedly.
 - ii. Embedded tutors know about the ZTC texts being used, but general tutors don't. We should connect with Ron/Julian re: tutor training. It can be as simple as the tutors asking the students, "Can you show me your textbook?"
 - iii. Sarah is working on syllabus language for ZTC/LTC courses, including information on workshops and help in the Library and Learning Center. (More on that in November.)
 - iv. While the Library does have a number of OER and other ZTC texts on reserve in physical form, the Learning Center doesn't. The library actually does the cataloging for the Learning Center reserves, but one of the issues we encounter is that requests don't come in from them often. ASLT will work on ways to create better alignment.

- d. Slide 28-29 notes, on the other ways that Cañada can support students re: affordability and their messages to faculty
 - i. Yay! The students appreciate the work!
 - ii. This work does take time, and the students are indicating that they see it.
 - iii. More visibility and marketing—including issues with Banner 9 not having visible markers for ZTC/LTC courses.
- e. Next steps
 - i. Sarah will bring this to Academic Senate and Student Senate; she'll also reach out to Umoja, STAR, EAPC and IPC to see if they are interested in discussing the data and next steps.
 - ii. Leonor: Connect with Coordinators, since they are able to disseminate information to their programs easier
 - iii. Amira: Division meetings, showcasing ZTC faculty and bring others into the conversation for support and encouragement
- IV. District-wide ZTC Program Awards (15 minutes; Information/Discussion)—TABLED
 - a. Sarah is meeting with district ZTC leads and HR to get clarity on how compensation must be documented and submitted today; will report back.
 - b. We'll come back to this in November.
- V. Adjourn

Important links

- [Textbook Affordability Subcommittee website](#)
- [Textbook Affordability Subcommittee SharePoint site](#)
- [OER/ZTC LibGuide](#)
- [SMCCCD OER/ZTC Website](#)
- [ASCCC OERI Website](#)

Next meeting: 25 November 2025, 1-2pm, via Zoom