



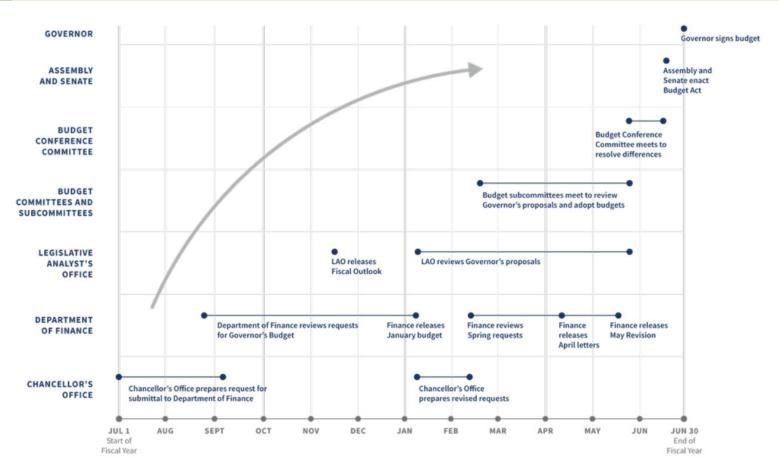
Agenda

- Sequence of the Annual Budget Process
- Key Takeaways
- Budget Problem and Solution
- Reduction for Education



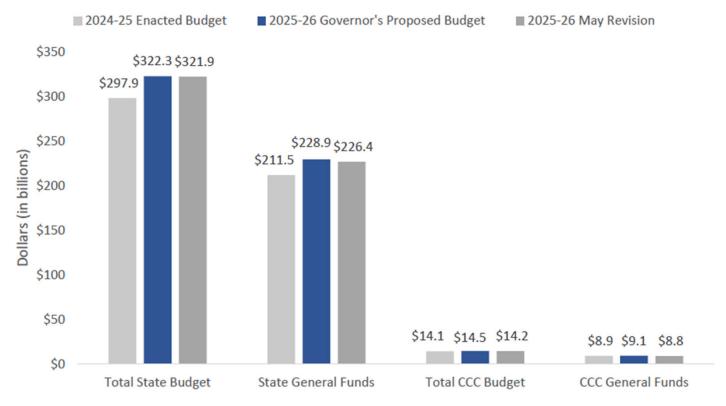


Sequence of the Annual Budget Process





Governor Gavin Newsom's May Revision of the 2025–26 California state budget introduces significant changes for the state's community colleges, reflecting efforts to address a projected \$12 billion deficit while maintaining core educational investments.





Funding Adjustments

- Proposition 98 Allocation: The total funding for community colleges is projected at \$12.9 billion, marking a \$625 million increase over the 2024–25 enacted budget. However, this represents a \$669 million decrease compared to the Governor's January proposal, primarily due to revised revenue estimates and a reallocation of funds for transitional kindergarten (TK) expansion.
- Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA): The COLA for apportionments has been adjusted to 2.3%, down from the initially proposed 2.43%, resulting in a \$12.9 million ongoing reduction for the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF).
- **Enrollment Growth Funding**: An allocation of \$139.9 million is proposed to support a 2.35% enrollment growth, a significant increase from the previously proposed 0.5%, aiming to accommodate rising student numbers.



Programmatic Investments and Reductions

- **Rising Scholars Network**: Funding for this program, which supports justice-involved students, is reduced by \$20 million, reflecting budgetary constraints.
- Career Education Initiatives: The budget proposes cuts of \$25 million to the Career Passport initiative and \$35 million (one-time) to the Credit for Prior Learning program, both integral to the state's Master Plan for Career Education.
- **Technology and Infrastructure**: Despite fiscal challenges, the budget maintains investments in technological advancements, including \$168 million in one-time funds for a Statewide Technology Transformation and \$162.5 million (with \$29 million ongoing) for a Statewide Common Data Platform.



Financial Management Strategies

- Cash Deferrals: To manage cash flow, the budget includes a deferral of \$531.6 million in SCFF funding from 2025–26 to 2026–27, which may impact the timing of fund availability for districts.
- **Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund**: The May Revision utilizes \$59 million from this reserve to support SCFF costs, reflecting a strategy to stabilize funding amidst revenue fluctuations.



Implications for Community Colleges:

- Revised budget maintains core operational funding for community colleges.
- Reductions to targeted programs (e.g., Rising Scholars, Career Education) signal difficult trade-offs.
- Adjusted COLA and deferred SCFF payments may create cash flow and planning challenges.
- Emphasis on enrollment growth presents both opportunities and capacity pressures.
- Need for strategic prioritization to sustain student services and educational quality.
- Collaboration across departments essential to optimize limited resources.
- Institutions encouraged to align programs with evolving state priorities and funding models.

