

Excerpt on Zero Textbook Cost Degree Program from January Governor's 2016-17 Budget Proposal, Page 39

Some institutions are exploring the use of open educational resources — free educational materials, such as online textbooks, that are available for use by any interested individual — that reduce student expenses for materials and textbooks. Some California faculty have been developing and collecting these resources through the California Open Educational Resources Council, an effort that has been supported by the state.

Using open educational resources, several community colleges in other states have begun developing and offering “zero-textbook-cost” associate degree programs. A zero-textbook-cost associate degree is one that only uses open educational resources. The Budget proposes \$5 million Proposition 98 General Fund to support community college efforts to begin creating zero-textbook-cost degree, certificate, and credential programs in California. The Administration expects participating community college districts to focus their efforts on developing degrees that parallel already established associate degrees for transfer, and expects participating community college districts to place developed degrees in the existing online clearinghouse of effective practices so that any interested community college can replicate these efforts.