

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

1102 Q STREET, SUITE 4554
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-6549
(916) 445-8752
<http://www.cccco.edu>



September 2, 2014

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Academic Senate Presidents
Chief Business Officers

FROM: Linda Michalowski
Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Special Programs

SUBJECT: Student Equity Allocations for 2014-15

This email contains the 2014-15 allocations for the new Student Equity categorical program. Governor Jerry Brown and the California State Legislature provided \$70 million in the 2014-15 Budget Act to establish the Student Equity program "in order to ensure equal educational opportunities and to promote student success for all students, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or economic circumstances." While a requirement has been in place since 1996 that colleges adopt Student Equity Plans, this is the first time that dedicated state resources have been provided to support efforts to achieve the goals reflected in those plans. Together with the doubling of funds for the Student Success and Support Program, this is a valuable investment in the system's Student Success Initiative to help colleges achieve student success goals for all students.

There are four attachments to this email. They are:

- The 2014-15 Student Equity allocations to community college districts;
- An explanation of the factors used to calculate the allocations;
- Student Equity Program Funding Guidelines; and
- Student Equity Provisions of the Budget Trailer Bill (SB 860).

These documents will be posted to our website at:

<http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/StudentEquity.aspx>. That is also where you will find the Student Equity Plan template and additional supporting material.

Transition Year Challenges and Solutions

Challenge 1: In anticipation of the start of Student Equity funding in 2014-15, the Chancellor's Office sent colleges a Student Equity Plan template in March 2014, with a due date of November 21, 2014. The template reflects the requirements of title 5 regulations (Section 54220) and the Student Success Act of

2012 (SB 1456). However, the template does not reflect the new populations, goals and planning parameters that were added by the adoption of SB 860 on June 20. As a result, planning efforts already underway may not fully address the requirements of current law.

Solution: Colleges need to review and address the requirements of SB 860 and incorporate them into local planning as soon as possible. However, **Student Equity Plans submitted for 2014-15 that meet the requirements reflected in the Student Equity Plan Template released on March 11 will be deemed to be acceptable for 2014-15** as long as they include an outline of how the new requirements will be incorporated and addressed.

Challenge 2: College planning efforts may have been delayed due to the absence of prior information about allocations and the requirements of SB 860. The Chancellor's Office established the November 21 Student Equity Plan submission deadline before the provisions of SB 860 were known.

Solution: **SB 860 requires colleges to submit Student Equity Plans on or before January 1, 2015. We will extend the submission deadline to that date.** We recognize that colleges will still face challenges completing their plans and obtaining board approval before the end of 2014 due to the winter holidays. If there are colleges that cannot meet that date, we will work with them on a case-by-case basis.

Challenge 3: Colleges are required to submit a Student Equity Plan and have it approved by the Chancellor's Office as a condition for receiving an allocation of Student Equity funds. However, funds became available on July 1, 2014, and plans are not due until mid-year.

Solution: **For 2014-15, expenditures may precede the adoption of an approved plan but all expenditures must be reflected in the plan submitted for approval and in year-end expenditure reports.**

Challenge 4: Because this is a new program and colleges have to spend half of this first year in a planning process, allocations may not be fully spent by June 30.

Solution: Districts may carry 2014-15 Student Equity funds over through the first quarter of 2015-16. **Funds allocated for 2014-15 must be spent by September 30, 2015.**

Action Requested: Please share this memorandum and the attachments with your Student Equity Coordinators and planning committees.

Contact: Debra Sheldon, Student Success and Equity Specialist at dsheldon@cccco.edu