



SAN JOSÉ – EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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SJECED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECED) proudly presents its 2025 Legislative Priorities, supporting our work to advance student success, equity, and strong institutional operations.

Our state priorities focus on student needs—including college access and affordability, student success, housing and basic needs, and support for vulnerable populations—as well as community college baccalaureate degrees and legislation related to general college operations such as state funding, human resources, and governance.

Our federal priorities focus on Pell Grant reform, including efforts to increase award amounts, expand eligibility to short-term programs, and eliminate taxation of Pell Grants.

We’ve organized the proposed legislation by policy area in the tables below and to the right, with page numbers that point to information on the District’s position—Support, TBD, or Monitor—and additional details for each supported bill.

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*SB67 and AB88 contain identical language and are companion bills introduced in the Senate and Assembly for concurrent consideration.



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2025 SJECED STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

STUDENT NEEDS

Ensuring student success requires policies that remove financial and structural barriers while providing essential support. SJECED advocates for legislation that expands educational opportunities, strengthens pathways to degree completion, and ensures students have access to the resources they need to succeed academically and beyond.

The following student needs priorities guide these legislative efforts:

- #1

College Access and Affordability

Expanding financial aid, simplifying applications, and ensuring higher education remains accessible for all students.
- #2

Student Success

Strengthening academic pathways, career development, and transfer opportunities to improve retention and degree completion.
- #3

Housing and Basic Needs

Supporting access to housing, childcare, and essential resources so students can stay enrolled and focused on their education.
- #4

Support for Vulnerable Student Populations

Protecting the rights and educational access of students impacted by immigration enforcement or status.



#1 COLLEGE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

SB33 – Homeless Pupils
California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program
(Author: Cortese)

Bill would require the State Department of Social Services to establish the SOAR Guaranteed Income Program, subject to an appropriation.

The program would award public school pupils who are in grade 12 and are homeless children or youths a guaranteed income of \$1,000 each month for four months, from May 1, 2026, to August 1, 2026.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

SB67 & AB88* – Student Financial Aid
Cal Grants: Middle Class Scholarship Program: Eligibility: Dependents of Members of the Armed Services Stationed Outside of California
(Authors: SB67 - Seyarto, AB88 - TA)

Bill would extend Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCSP) eligibility to a student who was not a California resident at the time of their high school graduation or its equivalent but meets all other eligibility requirements.

The student must also be a dependent natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who otherwise maintains California as their state of legal residence.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

**SB67 and AB88 contain identical language and are companion bills introduced in the Senate and Assembly for concurrent consideration.*

SB363 – Community Colleges
CalWORKS Recipients Education Program: Eligibility and Services
(Author: Bryan)

Expands access to the California Community College’s CalWORKS Recipients Education Program to include those whose dependents receive CalWORKS benefits and expands the permitted use of funds provided for the CalWORKS education program.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

AB537 – Community Colleges
California College Promise
(Author: Ahrens)

Bill would remove, for purposes of eligibility for the California College Promise, the qualification that students be full-time. The bill would additionally require, as a condition of participating in and receiving funding for the California College Promise, that community colleges and community college districts refrain from referring to any other student financial aid funding or program as the California College Promise.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

AB731– School Attendance
College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships
(Author: Fong)

Bill would require a CCAP partnership agreement to establish protocols that authorize a pupil to complete one application for the duration of the pupil’s attendance at a community college as a special part-time student participating in a CCAP partnership agreement.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

AB1035 – Community Colleges
California College Promise: Fee Waiver Eligibility
(Author: González)

Bill would authorize extending the term of eligibility of the California College Promise for an additional two academic years for first-time community college students and returning community college students who matriculate into upper-division coursework of a community college baccalaureate degree program, as specified.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

Please see page 10 for the “State Legislation Under Consideration” section, which lists additional bills the District is tracking, with SJECED’s position noted as TBD or Monitor.



#2 STUDENT SUCCESS

AB323 – Strong Workforce Program
Work-Based Learning Opportunities
(Author: Fong)

Bill would require the Chancellor’s Office to revise, no later than June 30, 2026, the policies of the Strong Workforce Program, including its regulations, and guidance necessary to provide students, employers, or both, with paid work-based learning opportunities, as provided. The bill would authorize a community college district to also use funds apportioned directly to CCDs to provide direct support to students, employers, or both, for paid work-based learning to increase employability and employment, as provided.

● **SJECED Position: SUPPORT**

#3 HOUSING AND BASIC NEEDS

SB271 – Public Postsecondary Education
Students with Dependent Children:
Childcare Services, Resources, and Programs
(Author: Reyes)

Bill would expand the definition of basic needs services and resources to include childcare services and resources, as defined.

● **SJECED Position: SUPPORT**

AB79 – Public Social Services
Higher Education
(Author: Arumbula)

Bill would require a county human services agency to additionally receive input from basic needs directors, basic needs coordinators, or designated staff, as specified, when developing protocols for engagement between the county human services agency and institutions of public higher education.

● **SJECED Position: SUPPORT**



#4 SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE STUDENT POPULATIONS

SB307 – Public Postsecondary Education
Access: Immigration Status
(Author: Cervantes)

Bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to address challenges and barriers in accessing a higher education degree in the event of the arrest, imprisonment, detainment, or deportation of a student, including arrangements for the online continuation of their courses to enable the completion of their degree programs.

● **SJECED Position: SUPPORT**

AB695 – California Community Colleges
Access and Continuity for Deported Students Act
(Author: Fong)

Bill would exempt a community college student from paying nonresident tuition if the student has been involuntarily removed from the United States due to immigration enforcement actions, was not paying nonresident tuition at the time of deportation, provides proof of deportation status, and reenrolls in a community college online education program.

The bill would require a deported student who legally reenters the United States and resumes in-person education at a community college to be eligible for nonresident tuition, provided the student was previously classified as a resident and eligible for the nonresident tuition exemption at the time of deportation, and would require the student to be eligible for financial aid upon reenrollment.

The bill would require the Board of Governors to adopt specified regulations related to the bill, including regulations that establish procedures for verifying deportation status and eligibility.

● **SJECED Position: SUPPORT**

2025 SJECED STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Advancing community college baccalaureate programs provides affordable, workforce-aligned pathways that meet regional labor needs.

These programs address workforce shortages and create high-demand degree opportunities without the cost of transferring to a four-year institution.

AB 1400 advances this effort by establishing a pilot program to offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees at select community colleges, helping meet the growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals across the state.

AB1400 – Community Colleges
Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program
(Author: Soria)

Bill would require the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The bill would limit the pilot program to 15 community college districts statewide and would require the chancellor’s office to develop a process to identify and select eligible community college districts based on specified criteria.

● **SJECED Position: SUPPORT**

Please see page 10 for the “State Legislation Under Consideration” section, which lists additional bills the District is tracking, with SJECED’s position noted as TBD or Monitor.

2025 SJECED STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GENERAL COLLEGE OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Ensuring the long-term success of community colleges requires promoting equitable funding, strengthening faculty and staff support, and enhancing governance structures that improve institutional effectiveness.

SJECED advocates for legislation that focuses on:

- #1 State Funding

Securing sustainable and equitable funding models to support student success, workforce programs, institutional growth, and infrastructure improvements.
- #2 Human Resources

Supporting student success through development of a strong, dedicated, well-trained, and institutionally supported California Community Colleges workforce.
- #3 Governance and Administration

Improving governance structures, institutional coordination, and strategic planning to strengthen college operations, student services, and facilities development.

#1 STATE FUNDING

AB537* – Community Colleges
California College Promise
(Author: Ahrens)

Bill would remove, for purposes of eligibility for the California College Promise, the requirement that students be full-time. The bill would additionally require, as a condition of participating in and receiving funding for the California College Promise, that community colleges and community college districts refrain from referring to any other student financial aid funding or program as the California College Promise.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

**AB537 is also listed under “Student Needs: College Access and Affordability” on page 5.*

#2 HUMAN RESOURCES

Please see page 10 for Human Resources bills in the “State Legislation Under Consideration” section, with SJECED’s position noted as TBD or Monitor.

#3 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

AB48 – Education Finance
Postsecondary Education Facilities: College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2026
(Author: Alvarez)

Bill would authorize state general obligation bonds to fund the construction and modernization of postsecondary education facilities. It aims to improve college and university infrastructure by addressing seismic safety, hazardous materials removal, and emergency response while enhancing student access to healthcare and mental health services. The bill requires voter approval and includes accountability measures such as independent audits and a cap on administrative costs.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT

AB409 – Open Meetings
Teleconferences: Community College Student Body Associations and Student-Run Organizations
(Author: Arumbula)

Bill would delete the January 1, 2026, sunset date for authorizing alternate teleconferencing provisions related to notice, agenda, and public participation.

SJECED Position: SUPPORT



Please see page 10 for the “State Legislation Under Consideration” section, which lists additional bills the District is tracking, with SJECED’s position noted as TBD or Monitor.



2025 SJECED STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

STATE LEGISLATION UNDER CONSIDERATION

The following bills are being tracked as part of the District’s legislative review process. While they align with key policy areas, the District’s position is currently listed as TBD or Monitor. These bills may become more relevant as the legislative session progresses or as additional details become available.

BILL	AUTHOR	TOPIC	SJECED POSITION
STUDENT NEEDS			
College Access and Affordability			
SB305	Reyes	Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012: Free Application Federal Student Aid and California Dream Act Application	MONITOR
SB323	Perez	Student Aid Commission: California Dream Act Application	TBD
AB791	Berman	Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program: Cost of Attendance	MONITOR
AB988	Fong	Pupil Instruction: Dual Enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships: Task Force	MONITOR
Student Success			
SB744	Cabaldon	Community Colleges: Credit for Students with Prior Learning	TBD
AB9	Quirk-Silva	University of California: California State University: Transfer of Students	MONITOR
AB934	Berman	Community Colleges: Degrees and Certificates: Education Plans	MONITOR
Housing and Basic Needs			
AB90	Jackson	Postsecondary Education: Overnight Student Parking	MONITOR
AB648	Zbur	Community Colleges: Housing: Local Zoning Regulations: Exemption	MONITOR
AB893	Fong	Housing Development Projects: Objective standards: Campus Development Zone	MONITOR
Support for Vulnerable Student Populations			
SB98	Perez	Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education: Immigration Enforcement: Notification	MONITOR
GENERAL COLLEGE OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION			
Human Resources			
SB494	Cortese	Classified School and Community College Employees: Disciplinary Hearings: Appeals: Contracted Administrative Law Judges	MONITOR
AB65	Aguiar-Curry	School and Community College Employees: Paid Disability and Parental Leave	TBD
AB1028	Fong	Community Colleges: Part-Time Faculty	MONITOR
AB1171	Patel	Community Colleges: Part-Time Faculty: Benefits	MONITOR
Governance and Administration			
AB95	Fong	Postsecondary Education: Coordinating Commission for Education in California	MONITOR
SB226	Cabaldon	Community Colleges: Territory Transfers Between Districts	MONITOR
SB790	Cabaldon	Postsecondary Education: Postsecondary Education Coordinating Entity: Interstate Reciprocity Agreements for Distance Education: Out-of-state Private Postsecondary Educational Institutions	MONITOR

2025 SJECED FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



PELL GRANT REFORM

At the federal level, SJECED supports Pell Grant Reform to promote access, affordability, and student success in higher education.

Priorities include:

#1	Increasing Pell Grant Award Raising the maximum Pell Grant to help low-income students cover tuition and essential college expenses, reducing the need for student loans.
#2	Expanding Short-Term Pell Eligibility Expanding access to Pell Grants for workforce training programs under 16 weeks, ensuring students can gain critical job skills in high-demand fields.
#3	Ending Taxation of Pell Grants Making Pell Grants tax-free so low-income students receive the full benefit of their financial aid without additional financial burdens.

By working alongside policymakers, education leaders, and community stakeholders, SJECED remains committed to removing financial barriers and promoting equitable access to higher education.



Increasing Amount of Pell Awards
Support Student Access and Success

Boost the Pell Grant maximum award. Pell Grants enable millions of low-income community college students to pay tuition and fees and meet other college expenses and are the foundation of all other student aid. Increasing the maximum award promotes affordability and student success for low-income students, while reducing their need to borrow.

Short-Term Pell Eligibility
Bolster the Role of Community Colleges in Workforce Development

Establish Pell Grant eligibility for shorter-term programs, accompanied by rigorous quality standards. Currently, programs must be at least 16 weeks long to be eligible for Pell Grants. This excludes many community college workforce-oriented programs that benefit both students and local businesses. Without Pell grant support, many students cannot afford to participate in these programs. The threshold for Pell Grant eligibility should be shortened to 150 clock hours, as was proposed in the bipartisan Senate legislation the JOBS Act and the House Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act.

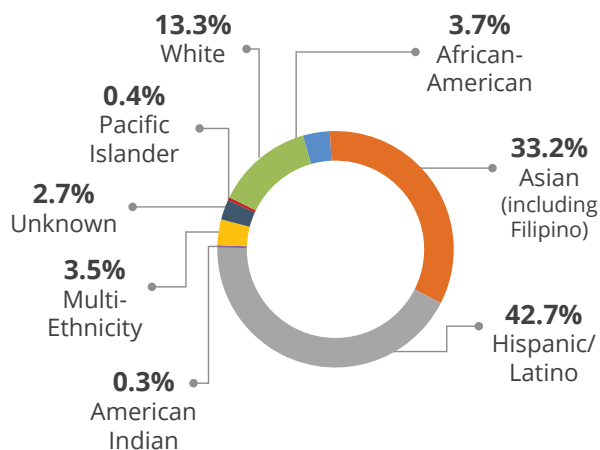
End Taxation of Pell Grants
Focus Student Tax Policy on Those Who Can Benefit Most

Make Pell Grants tax-free. Congress should use planned action on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act through reconciliation to eliminate this penalty on low-income students. Currently, community college students must pay taxes on their Pell Grant dollars that are used toward living expenses. By law, these funds must be used for qualified educational expenses and taxing Pell Grant funds makes it even harder for the lowest-income community college students to succeed.

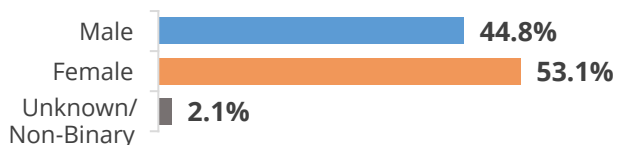
SJECCD STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS (2023-24)

SJECCD's legislative priorities are shaped by the students and communities we serve. These demographic insights provide a snapshot of who our students are and help guide decisions on which policies to support, monitor, and advocate for at the state and federal levels. By aligning our advocacy with student needs, we continue working to expand financial aid, strengthen workforce pathways, and enhance support services that remove barriers to success.

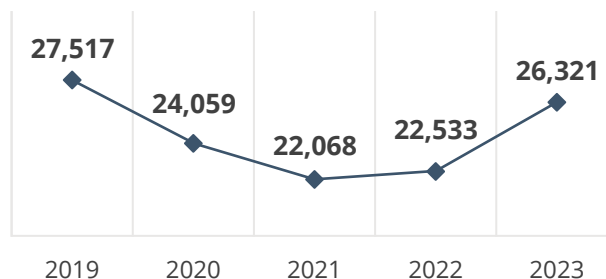
STUDENT ETHNICITY PROFILE



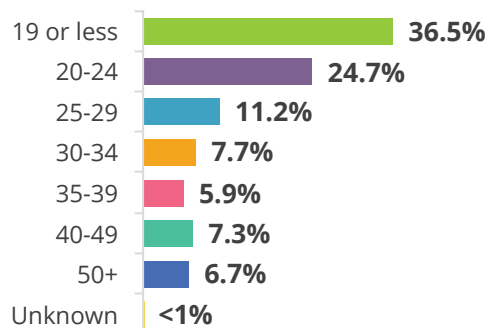
STUDENT GENDER



FIVE-YEAR TREND (HEADCOUNT)



STUDENT AGE



SJECCD CHANCELLOR

Dr. Beatriz Chaidez

SJECCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Tony Alexander, Board President

Dr. Jeffrey Lease, Board Vice President

Ms. Maria Fuentes, Trustee

Ms. Marsha Grilli, Trustee

Mr. Clay Hale, Trustee

Ms. Karen Martinez, Trustee

Dr. Buu Thai, Trustee

Mr. Edgar Jimenez Granados, EVC Student Trustee

Mr. Pratham Tated, SJCC Student Trustee



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