



President
John Stankas
San Bernardino Valley College

May 6, 2019

Vice President
Dolores Davison
Foothill College

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Governor’s Office
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Secretary
Craig Rutan
Santiago Canyon College

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 5019
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 668-7004

Treasurer
Virginia “Ginni” May
Sacramento City College

Area A Representative
Geoffrey Dyer
Taft College

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 3192199

Area B Representative
Mayra Cruz
DeAnza College

Area C Representative
Rebecca Eikey
College of the Canyons

Area D Representative
Samuel Foster
Fullerton College

Subject: Support for Student Parents’ Success Through Early Learning/Child Development Lab Schools

North Representative
Cheryl Aschenbach
Lassen College

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges wishes to express its support for the expansion of funding in order to support a greater number of student parents and to provide academic preparation for teachers and related child development professions.

North Representative
Carrie Roberson
Butte College

In his 2019-20 budget, Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed investment in early learning and in early childhood education programs by adopting a framework that “promotes a healthy start in three ways: (1) early access for children to educational and healthcare services, including services for those with adverse childhood experiences, (2) a two-generation approach that invests in parents so they can invest more in their children, and (3) easing financial pressures on parents so they can escape the cycle of poverty and focus on healthy development of their kids in those critical first five years of a child's life.”^a In addition, the governor’s budget includes a proposed Cal Grant Access Award for student parents.

South Representative
LaTonya Parker
Moreno Valley College

South Representative
Anna Bruzzese
Los Angeles Pierce College

Representative at Large
Michelle Bean
Rio Hondo College

Representative at Large
Silvester Henderson
Los Medanos College

In the absence of other support, California must provide for these adults in their pursuit of higher education. Access to affordable and high-quality child care services for community college students with children is critical to student success and completion, and it serves as a resource of student equity that can improve overall academic outcomes, retention, and completion rates. In addition, students enrolled in the California community colleges who are seeking degrees or certificates in child development or early childhood education benefit from being able to work directly with children and parents in on-campus settings. This position represents the collective judgment of the 60,000 faculty in the California Community Colleges system as expressed at our organization’s 2019 Spring Plenary Session through Resolution [07.02 SP19 \(https://asccc.org/resolutions/support-student-parents%E2%80%99-success-through-campus-early-learningchild-development-lab\)](https://asccc.org/resolutions/support-student-parents%E2%80%99-success-through-campus-early-learningchild-development-lab).

Executive Director
Krystinne Mica

^a California Governor’s Budget Summary 2019-20.

Retrieved 15 February 2019 from <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/FullBudgetSummary.pdf>

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For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges expresses its support for the prioritizing of the reinstatement and expansion of ongoing support for campus early childhood education and care lab schools to support a greater number of student parents and provide academic preparation for teachers and related child development professions, as well as the inclusion of funding to support the availability of equitable high-quality early childhood services for student parents in the governor's 2019-20 budget.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,



John Stankas, President

Cc: Senate Budget Committee
Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Connie Leyva, Chair, and the Senate Higher Education Committee
Hon. Jose Medina, Chair, and Assembly Higher Education Committee
Mónica Henestroza, Office of Speaker Rendon
Mark Martin, Principal Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Jeanice Warden-Washington, Principal Consultant, Committee on Higher Education
Olgalilia Ramirez, Consultant, Senate Education Committee
Edgar Cabral, Legislative Analyst's Office
Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
Joey Freeman, Office of the Governor
Lizette Navarette, Community College League of California
Evan Hawkins, FACCC
Laura Metune, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the California Community Colleges

