

From: [Jolley, Kate](#)
To: [Jolley, Kate](#)
Subject: Update on State Budget, Enrollment, and Fiscal Planning
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 8:36:30 AM

Sent bcc DL.staff.all

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to share an update on the Governor's proposed 2026–27 budget, our current enrollment outlook, and how these factors continue to guide the District's fiscal planning.

State Budget Overview

At the California Community College system level, the Governor's proposed budget would fund the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) for 2026–27 and includes a 2.41% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on apportionment revenue. While this represents a modest increase over last year's 2.30% revenue COLA, it is positive news for the system overall. As previously shared, SRJC will not receive the full value of the revenue COLA because we remain below our funded FTES enrollment level and are only receiving revenue COLA as one time funding each year. As a result, SRJC is projected to receive a one-time 0.11% funded apportionment revenue COLA to SRJC for 2026-27.

The revenue COLA would apply as ongoing funding to select categorical programs, including Adult Education, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), DisAbled Students Programs and Services (DSPS), Apprenticeship, CalWORKs Student Services, Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE), and the Mandated Cost Block Grant.

While SRJC is not currently positioned to realize additional funding as we continue to recover our FTES, the proposed budget also includes modest growth funding of 1% for 2025–26 and 0.50% for 2026–27 for colleges that are positioned for enrollment growth.

The Governor's proposal also includes several targeted investments, including:

- \$100 million one-time for a Student Support Block Grant
- Funding to continue scaling the Common Cloud Data Platform and institutionalize Credit for Prior Learning
- Ongoing support for the California Healthy School Food Pathways Program
- One-time funding related to apprenticeship costs and dual enrollment expansion, with community college allocations still to be determined
- A reallocation of ongoing funds to support Basic Needs Centers

One bright spot in the proposal is \$120.7 million in one-time statewide funding for deferred

maintenance. If included in the final budget, this would be the first deferred maintenance funding in three years.

The proposal also includes paying off a \$1.9 billion Proposition 98 settle-up obligation and establishing a new \$5.6 billion settle-up for 2025–26. It is too early to determine whether or how this may result in additional one-time funding opportunities for community colleges later in the budget process.

Enrollment (FTES) Update

The District has submitted the 2025–26 P1 Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) report and is currently projecting 15,246 FTES for the year. While some areas are showing signs of continued growth, this projection remains below our funded level of 17,500 FTES and below the targets outlined in our Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP).

Ongoing Fiscal Planning and Next Steps

The President’s Cabinet continues to work intentionally and proactively toward long term fiscal stability, recognizing that enrollment has not yet recovered to the levels assumed in the SEMP. Through this work, the SEMP Implementation Workgroup continues to analyze enrollment recovery trends and adjust strategies in collaboration with our campus partners, based on current conditions and anticipated growth opportunities.

It is important to note that the District has planned for these structural budget challenges for several years. Many of the difficult but necessary decisions made since 2018 through the implementation of the Long Range Plan to Fiscal Sustainability were undertaken to prepare us for this moment in mind. Looking ahead, we recognize that additional difficult decisions remain, and we are committed to addressing them responsibly and carefully, in partnership with our constituent group partners.

This approach reflects a thoughtful and measured commitment to fiscal sustainability, alignment with our mission, and protecting our ability to serve students over the long term. We recognize that this work is challenging and deeply appreciate the continued engagement and commitment of faculty, staff, and administrators.

We will continue to monitor budget and enrollment trends closely and I will share updates as additional information becomes available.

Thank you for your continued commitment to SRJC and our students.

Sincerely,
Kate

Kate Jolley

Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services / Assistant Superintendent



1501 Mendocino Ave | Santa Rosa, CA | 95401

tel 707-527-4413 | fax 707-535-3769

kjolley@santarosa.edu

<https://financeadmin.santarosa.edu/>

I acknowledge that Santa Rosa Junior College is on the territorial traditional land of the Pomo People in Santa Rosa and the Coast Miwok People in Petaluma, past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.