



# California Community Colleges

October 1, 2020

Dear High School Counselor,

Many students and families are facing tough financial choices right now but paying for college shouldn't be one of them.

**Financial aid is available year-round at California community colleges** to help cover costs such as tuition, books, supplies and sometimes even rent. Students *must complete* the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible, and undocumented students should complete the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). These financial aid applications are available online to students and their families beginning today, **October 1, 2020**.

Students can find links to the applications at [StayEnrolled.com](https://stayenrolled.com). We created this website during the pandemic to provide students and their families answers to frequently asked questions, links to enroll, and to connect them to their local college for help with completing their financial aid application. The site also offers information about the resources and support they need to help them succeed at a California community college.

**We are asking for your help to encourage all high school seniors to go online to complete the FAFSA or CADAA**—even if they don't think they'll qualify or they haven't decided on their college plans yet. There are nearly six billion dollars in financial aid available to California college students each year. In fact, nearly one-half of all California community college students receive some form of financial aid. The sooner students apply, the more aid they can qualify to receive, and the sooner they will know what their award amount will be and can plan ahead. Please tell

students about the importance of completing their financial aid application online now.

As you talk with students, their families and other counselors about college planning, please use the digital brochure linked below to highlight the benefits of attending a California community college. In addition to financial aid resources, the brochure includes information on guaranteed transfer to participating four-year universities and a multitude of degree and certificate programs and career training pathways available at your local community college.

**Download English Brochure**

**Download Spanish Brochure**

We know many students and families are re-evaluating their options due to the impact of COVID-19. Should you have any questions or if you would like more information about how California community colleges are responding during the pandemic, please reach out to our Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing Paul Feist at [PFeist@cccco.edu](mailto:PFeist@cccco.edu) or our Director of Communications and Marketing Paige Marlatt Dorr at [PDorr@cccco.edu](mailto:PDorr@cccco.edu).

We will be back in touch with regular updates and important information about upcoming deadlines, as well as resources and opportunities available at your local community college.

Sincerely,



Eloy Oakley Ortiz, Chancellor  
California Community Colleges  
[www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu)

cc: California High School Superintendents

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