

College Board Resolution – 2025 Community College Legislative Priorities

Whereas:

1. Community colleges are the only sector of public post-secondary education open to all students, regardless of education or skill level.
2. Community colleges serve the largest number of underrepresented and first-generation students in Oregon, playing a vital role in reducing educational, economic, and social inequities.
3. Community colleges provide critical programs, including Career and Technical Education, workforce training, short-term certificates, GED programs, and dual-credit courses for all Oregonians.
4. They are essential for bridging high school to four-year degrees and upskilling adults to meet workforce demands.
5. Insufficient financial aid and capped funding hinder students' ability to pursue post-secondary education and training.

Be it Resolved:

The _____ Board of Directors supports the Oregon Community College Association Board's Legislative Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session, including:

- **\$920 million for the Community College Support Fund (CCSF):** Ensures current service levels with modest statewide tuition increases.
- **\$150 million increase for the Oregon Opportunity Grant:** Expands access to need-based financial aid, benefiting high school graduates and working adults, and addressing inequities in educational attainment.
- **Raising the Article XI-G Bond funding cap to \$14 million:** Adjusts for inflation to support capital projects critical to community colleges. An adjustment to the cap hasn't been made since Article XI-G bonds first became available to colleges in 2005.
- **\$10 million for student basic needs:** Addresses growing challenges in food, housing, and transportation to support student success.
- **\$1 million for corequisite supports:** Funds faculty release time and training as well as implementation to improve student success in math during the first year of college, particularly for historically underrepresented students.
- **Adult Reconnect policy bill:** Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene a workgroup for reengaging adults with some college but no degree, addressing enrollment declines and workforce needs.

Community colleges are essential to Oregon's education and workforce ecosystems, and these priorities will strengthen their ability to serve students, businesses, and communities statewide.

Board of Education President

Date