



theRPgroup
Research • Planning • Professional Development
for California Community Colleges

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The RP Group Board Shares April Memorandum to the Chancellor's Office Regarding Proposed Funding Formula Changes

SAN RAFAEL, CA, May 8, 2018 – In response to proposed changes to the funding formula, the California Community College Chancellor, Eloy Ortiz Oakley, yesterday released his [official recommendations to the California Department of Finance](#).

Today, the RP Group, shares with its constituents an earlier memo sent to the Chancellor from the RP Group Board of Directors on April 13, containing thoughts and feedback on the proposed changes to how colleges are funded, and in particular, concerns related to issues of accuracy, reliability, and validity.

In its feedback to the Chancellor's Office, the RP Group Board — on behalf of its 90-plus community college member institutions and their researchers, educators, leaders, and students — focused on the process that is being used to create the new funding formula and some of the limitations inherent in our current metrics and practices.

In his recommendations to the Department of Finance, Chancellor Oakley acknowledged that his office received input from several sources including various community and college constituency groups, including the RP Group, and outlined next steps in the process.

Please reach out to Dr. Darla Cooper, Executive Director of the RP Group, at dcooper@rpgroup.org or (510) 527-8500 x253 with any questions pertaining to the RP Group Board's memo, copied below.

The RP Group Board's Memo to the Chancellor's Office Regarding Proposed New Funding Formula

To: Chancellor Oakley and Vice Chancellor Osmeña
From: The Research and Planning Group (RP Group) Board of Directors
Date: April 13, 2018
Re: Proposed New Funding Formula

Due to the proposed changes to the funding formula, Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness (IRPE) Offices are being asked to help college leadership build projections for future revenue based on the various iterations of the new funding formula that have been proposed by the Department of Finance, CEO Workgroup, and others. Consequently, **the RP Group Board has been asked by our constituents to provide some feedback about the process that is being used to create the new funding formula and some of the limitations that are inherent in our current metrics and practices.** We are primarily concerned with issues of accuracy, reliability, and validity and would like to offer some thoughts and feedback with those issues in mind.

1. Positioning colleges to be responsive to the intent of the new funding formula

Changes to the funding formula will have consequences for our system — both intended and unintended. Colleges will need support to understand the metrics and how to measure them in order to evaluate the impact of the formula on their students. **The RP Group is advocating for a formula with a relevant set of metrics that measure specific, actionable areas in relatively short timeframes, as well as a systemic approach to professional development that results in the greatest possible opportunity for colleges to act and react to the impact of the funding formula.**

2. Consistency of data across initiatives

There are a number of efforts currently underway that relate to metrics (e.g., AB705, Guided Pathways, Strong Workforce, IEPI indicators). Currently, through these efforts, over 100 metrics have been identified. The current metric simplification work being done appears to be taking us in a different direction, away from what is currently being utilized and therefore it is not clear how this work will impact the funding formula. **The RP Group is advocating for consistency and clarity across these various efforts that result in meaningful metrics that accurately represent institutions.**

3. Students being left out of metrics

When many of the scorecard metrics were developed, the primary concern was to account for “serious” students who planned on earning a degree or transferring. As a result, the scorecard cohort ignores specific populations of students — (e.g., ESL students, those primarily interested in certificates, returning adults, skills builders, students without a Social Security Number). **The RP Group is advocating for metrics that are inclusive of the entirety of the community college mission and ensure that all students’ achievements are recognized.**

On behalf of the IRPE community, we would like to thank you for considering our input into this process. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our input with you further if that would prove useful. Please feel free to reach out to our Executive Director, Dr. Darla Cooper, at dcooper@rpgroup.org or (510) 527-8500 x253 if you would like to schedule this conversation or if you have any questions.

About the RP Group

The RP Group is a non-profit, membership-driven organization that strives to build a community college culture that views planning, evidence-based decision-making, and institutional effectiveness as integral, collaborative strategies that work together to promote student success, increase equitable outcomes, improve college operations, and inform policymakers. It does this primarily through research, planning, professional development, evaluation, and technical assistance for California Community Colleges. The RP Group also recognizes excellence through its Lifetime Achievement Award and RP Group Award offerings. Go to www.rpgroup.org for more information.

Mission Statement

Through professional and leadership development, technical assistance, research, and evaluation services, the RP Group strengthens the ability of California Community Colleges to discover and undertake high quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision-making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.

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