



**Executive Order:** 2020-01

**Effective Date:** March 20, 2020

**Title:** Temporary Suspension of Student Withdrawal Regulations to Address the Continuity of Education in Community Colleges During the COVID-19 Declared State of Emergency

Executive Order 2020-01 is issued pursuant to Resolution of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors No. 2020-01 and title 5, section 52020, of the California Code of Regulations, which confers on the Chancellor emergency powers to take all appropriate actions, including the issuance of executive orders, to allow for the continued education of community college students during the period of emergency proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020. This authority allows the temporary suspension of regulations adopted by the Board of Governors and the suspension of local rules and regulations that are a barrier to the continuity of educational services.

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors wishes to ensure community college districts and campuses are adequately supported and able to continue providing educational services to students during this COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, community college districts, in the face of uncertainty and challenges occasioned by the existing statewide state of emergency, are making great efforts to fulfill their duty to provide for continuity of education for students seeking to continue their studies; and

WHEREAS, students are also making great efforts to continue their education in the face of uncertainty and challenges occasioned by the necessity to participate in courses remotely due to the existing statewide state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, despite the admirable efforts being made by both students and community college districts to meet the challenges posed by the statewide state of emergency, some students, due to their particular circumstances affecting their ability to meet these challenges, must nevertheless withdraw from one or more of their courses; and



WHEREAS, when a student withdraws from courses due to the existing statewide state of emergency, community college districts may refund student enrollment fees, which adversely impacts community college districts' finances as they lose funding tied to the withdrawing students; and

WHEREAS, student withdrawals have the potential to disrupt the continuity of future instruction for the students who withdraw and wish to re-enroll, and the financial impacts caused by such student withdrawals will create barriers to the continuity of educational services provided by the community college districts in the entire California Community Colleges system.

THEREFORE, as the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, I declare the following:

1. The above recitals are true and correct; and
2. Resolution of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors No. 2020-01 and title 5, section 52020, of the California Code of Regulations, authorize me to take all appropriate actions to allow for the continued education of community college students during the period of emergency proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020, including the temporary suspension of regulations adopted by the Board and the suspension of local rules and regulations that are a barrier to the continuity of educational services.
3. Due to the existing state of emergency, strict adherence to the following sections of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations will create barriers to the continuity of educational services and are hereby temporarily suspended or interpreted only as specified:
  - a. Section 55024(e)(1): Extenuating circumstances for purposes of an excused withdrawal (EW) shall include a student's withdrawal due to the COVID-19 crisis and such withdrawal shall not be counted in



progress probation or dismissal calculations, towards the permitted number of withdrawals.

- b. Section 55024(e)(3): An excused withdrawal may be counted as an enrollment attempt for apportionment purposes, language in subdivision (e)(3) to the contrary notwithstanding.
  - c. Section 58509(c): The requirement that a district must request a waiver in writing is suspended. Accordingly, districts may grant refunds of enrollment fees pursuant to subdivision (a) without additional documentation provided to the Chancellor's Office.
- 4. Any local district board policies or regulations related to the above regulatory suspensions shall also be suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency or the expiration of Section 52020, whichever is earlier.
  - 5. This executive order shall remain in place in full force and effect as long as the declaration of the COVID-19 state of emergency is in place, or the expiration of Section 52020, whichever is earlier.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY'.

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Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor

Dated: March 20, 2020