

ACE letter-writing campaign template regarding COLA in January 2021 budget:

I am a California Community College classified professional in your district. As you work with your fellow legislators on the 2021-22 state budget, please consider increasing the community college cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) to match the proposed K-12 COLA of 3.84 percent. Adequate COLA is critical to serving our students. Our colleges are the lowest per-student funded segment of education. Insufficient COLAs put our colleges even further behind.

Furthermore, requiring institutions to create or implement policy proposals to receive a COLA is inherently problematic. Providing incentives for colleges with new money would be a less punitive approach that wouldn't hurt our already insufficient funding. A COLA is not intended to be a bonus or reward. Instead, it allows a district to maintain its purchasing power to serve students.

Thank you for your support of our colleges.