

**Accounts Payable** - Accounts due and owing to persons, business firms, governmental units or there for goods and services not yet paid.

**Accounts Receivable** - Amounts due and owing from persons, business firms, governmental units or others for goods and services provided, but not yet collected.

**Accrual Basis** - The method of accounting that recognizes revenue/gains and expenses/loses in the accounting period in which the transactions occur regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. (Contrast with cash basis.)

**Allocation** - Division or distribution of resources according to a predetermined plan.

**Apportionment** - Federal or state taxes distributed to college districts or other governmental units according to certain formulas.

**Audit** - An examination of documents, records and accounts for the purpose of determining 1) that all present fairly the financial position of the district; 2) that they are in conformity with prescribed accounting procedures; and 3) that they are consistent with the preceding year.

**Auxiliary Operations** - Service activities indirectly related to teaching and learning. Food service and dormitories are considered auxiliary operations.

**Backfill** - Funds allocated by the Legislature to make up for revenues (e.g. student fee, property taxes) that were projected but not received.

**Base Revenue** - The districts' total prior year revenue from state general apportionment's, local property tax revenue and student enrollment fees adjusted when applicable for projected deficits.

**Base Year** - A year to which comparisons are made when projecting a current condition.

**Beginning Balance** - The money that the district begins the year with. It is based on the ending balance from the prior year, unexpended funds, monies that are expected to be received and other cash on hand.

**Block Grant** - A fixed sum of money, not linked to enrollment measures, provided to a college district by the state.

**Bonds** - Investment securities (encumbrances) sold by a district through a financial firm for the purpose of raising funds for various capital expenditures. General obligation bonds require a 2/3 vote of the electorate.

**Bonded Debt Limit** - The maximum amount of bonded debt for which a community college may legally obligate itself. The total amount of bonds issued cannot exceed a stipulated percent of the assessed valuation of the district.

**Board of Governors** - The statewide governing board of the community colleges. The members are appointed by the Governor. The Board hires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and makes policy decisions that affect all districts. The Board may be directed by the Legislature to regulate certain matters and it may choose to regulate others.

**Board of Trustees** - The local governing board of each community college district. Its members are elected from the service area. The board hires the chief administrator of the district and directs the operations of the district. It makes policy decisions that are permitted or mandated at the local level.

**Budget** - A plan of financial operation for a given period for a specified purpose consisting of an estimate of revenue and expenditures.

**Budgeting** - The process of allocating available resources among potential activities to achieve the objectives of an organization.

**Budget Document** - A written statement translating the educational plan or programs into costs, usually for one future fiscal year, and estimating income by sources to meet these costs.

**Budget Act** - The legislative vehicle for the State's appropriations. The Constitution requires that it be approved by a majority vote of each house and sent to the Governor by June 15 each year. The Governor may reduce or delete, but not increase, individual items.

**Capital Outlay** - The acquisition of or additions to, fixed assets including land or existing buildings, grounds improvements, construction of buildings additions to buildings, remodeling of buildings or equipment.

**Capital Projects** - Capital Projects Funds are used for the acquisition or construction of capital outlay items, e.g. buildings, major equipment.

**Categorical Funds** - Also called restricted funds, these are monies that can only be spent for the designated purpose. Examples: funding to serve students with disabilities (DSPS) or the economically disadvantaged, low-income (EOPS), scheduled maintenance, instructional equipment, and matriculation.

**Chart of Accounts** - A systematic list of accounts applicable to a specific entity.

**Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)** - An increase in funding for revenue limits or categorical programs. Current law ties COLAs to indices of inflation, although different amounts are appropriated in some years.

**Census and Census Week** - This assesses the number of students enrolled in a full semester course on the Monday of the third week of a full semester or 20% of course.

**Deferrals** - The state deferred revenue owed the community colleges from one fiscal year to the next. The practice began in 2001/02 and peaked at \$961 million in the 2011/12 fiscal year.

**Deficit** - The excess of liabilities over assets or the excess of expenditures or expenses over revenues during an accounting period.

**Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS)** - Categorical funds designated to integrate disabled students into the general college program.

**Education Code** - The body of law that regulates education in California. Other laws that affect colleges are found in the Government Code, Public Contracts Code, Penal Code and others.

**Education Protection Account** - Revenues generated from Proposition 30 are deposited into a state account code called the Education Protection Account. Of the funds in the account, 89 percent is provided to K-12 and 11 percent to community colleges.

**Encumbered Funds** - Obligations in the form of purchase orders, contracts, salaries, and other commitments for which part of an appropriation is reserved.

**Ending Balance** - A sum of money available in the district's account at year end after subtracting accounts payable from accounts receivable.

**Enrollment Cap** - A limit on the number of students (FTES) for which the state will provide funding.

**Enrollment Fee** - Charges to resident students for instructional costs; established in the Education Code.

**Enterprise Funds** - Used to account for operations when the governing board has decided either that the total cost of providing goods and services on a continuing basis is financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or that the periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes. Examples included bookstore and food service funds.

**Estimated Income** - Expected receipt or accruals of monies from revenue or non-revenue sources (abatements, loan receipts) during a given period.

**Expenditures** - Amounts disbursed for all purposes. Accounts kept on an accrual basis include all charges whether paid or not. Accounts kept on a cash basis include only actual cash disbursements.

**Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)** - Categorical funds designated for supplemental services for disadvantaged students.

**FCMAT** - Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, a non-profit organization that provides fiscal advice, management assistance, training and other related educational business services.

**Fee** - A charge to students for services related to their education.

**Fifty-Percent Law** - Requires that fifty percent of district expenditures in certain categories must be spent for classroom instruction.

**Final Budget** - The district budget that is approved by the board in September, after the state allocation is determined.

**Fiscal Year** - Twelve calendar months: in California, it is the period beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Some special projects use a fiscal year beginning October 1 and ending September 30, which is consistent with the federal government's fiscal year.

**Foundation** - A separate entity created by the districts as an auxiliary organization to receive, raise and manage funds from private sources.

**FTE** - Acronym for Full-time Equivalent. It refers to a measurement of enrollment derived by dividing total student credit hours for a term by 15, both for undergraduate and graduated students at the California State University.

**Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES)** - A measure used to indicate enrollment and workload. The State General Apportionment is based on FTES.

**Fund** - An independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balanced set of accounts for recording cash and other financial resources, together with all related liabilities

**Fund Balance** - The difference between assets and liabilities.

**GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and GAAS (Generally Accepted Audit Standards)** - Uniform minimum standards and guidelines for financial accounting and reporting.

**Gann Limitation** - A ceiling on each year's appropriations supported by tax dollars. The limit applies to all governmental entities, including school districts. The base year was 1978-79. The amount is adjusted each year, based on a price index and the growth of the student population.

**General Fund** - The fund used to account for the ordinary operations of the district. It is available for any legally-authorized purpose not specified for payment by other funds.

**General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds)** - Debt instruments issued by districts (or other state or local public governmental bodies) to raise funds for public works and capital expenditures. These bonds are backed by the taxing and borrowing power of the entity that issues them.

**Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)** - The national authoritative accounting and financial reporting standard-setting body for governmental entities.

**Governor's Budget** - The Governor proposes a budget for the state each January.

**Grants** - Contributions or gifts of cash or other assets from a government or private organization to be used for a specified purpose, activity or facility.

**Headcount** - An unduplicated count of enrolled students.

**Inflation Factor** - An increase in apportionment provided by the state to reflect the increased cost of operation due to inflation.

**Interfund Transfers** – Money that is taken from one fund and added to another fund without an expectation of repayment.

**Lease Revenue Bonds** - Bonds secured by a lease agreement and rental payments. Community colleges use lease revenue bonds to finance construction or purchase of facilities.

**Lottery Funds** - The minimum of 34 percent of lottery revenues distributed to public schools and colleges must be used for “education of pupils”. Lottery income has added about 1-3 percent to community college funding.

**Mandated Costs** - College district expenditures that occur as a result of federal or state law, court decisions, administrative regulations, or initiative measures.

**May Revise** - The Governor revises his budget proposal in May in accordance with up-to-date projections in revenues and expenses.

**Noncredit FTES** - FTES earned in noncredit courses, generally Adult Education.

**Nonresident Tuition** - A student who is not a resident of California is required, under the uniform student residency requirements, to pay tuition. The fee shall not be less than the average statewide cost per student, and is set by the board.

**Object Code** - Classification category of an item or a service purchase.

**OPEB** - Other Post Employment Benefits, primarily retiree healthcare benefits.

**Partnership for Excellence** - Funds that are specially allocated to the colleges to be used to improve student performance in five areas.

**PERS** - Public Employee's Retirement System. State law requires school district classified employees, school districts and the State to contribute to the fund for full-time classified employees.

**Program-Based Funding** - The budget formula used by the Chancellor's Office to determine state allocations to local districts. It does not specify where and how the funds must be spent.

**Proposition 13** - An initiative amendment passed in June 1978 adding Article XIII A to the California Constitution. Tax rates on secured property are restricted to no more than 1 percent of full cash value. Proposition 13 also defined assessed value and required a two-thirds vote to change existing or levy new taxes.

**Proposition 98** - An initiative passed in November 1988, guaranteeing at least 40 percent of the state's budget for K-12 and community colleges. The split was proposed to be 89 percent (K-12) and 11 (CCC), although the split has not been maintained.

**Reserves** - Funds set aside in a college district budget to provide for future expenditures or to offset future losses, for working capital, or for other purposes. There are different categories of reserves, including contingency, general, restricted and reserves for long-term liabilities.

**Restricted Funds** - Money that must be spent for a specific purpose either by law or by local board action.

**Retiree Health Benefits** - Benefits provided to retirees provide health insurance, negotiated through collective bargaining. Also called "Other Post Employment Benefits."

**Revenue** - Income from all sources.

**Revenue Limit** - The specific amount of student enrollment fees, state and local taxes a college district may receive per student for its general education budget. Annual increases are determined by Proposition 98 formula or the Legislature.

**Revolving Fund** - A revolving cash account to use in securing or purchasing services or materials.

**75/25 Ratio** - The goal established by AB1725 for the ration for full-time faculty to part-time faculty. Districts not at the 75% level have an obligation to make progress toward the goal -the "full time faculty obligation number (FON)" -when funding is provided.

**Shortfall** - An insufficient allocation of money, requiring an additional appropriation, and expenditures reduction, or deficits.

**State Apportionment** - An allocation of state money to a district, determined by multiplying the district's total FTES times its base revenue per FTES.

**STRS** - State Teacher's Retirement System. State law requires that school district employees, school districts and the State contribute to the fund for full-time certificated employees.

**Student Financial Aid Funds** - Funds designated for grants and loans to students. Includes federal Pell grants, College Work-Study, and the state funds EOPS grants and fee waiver programs.

**Stabilization Funding** - Districts that experience enrollment decline are held harmless for any revenue loss in the year the enrollment decline occurs, and the district is funded to its base enrollment.

**Sunset** - The termination of the regulations for a categorical program or regulation.

**Tentative Budget** - The budget approved by the board in June, prior to when state allocations have been finalized.

**Title 5** - The Section of the Administrative Code that governs community colleges. The Board of Governors may change or add to Title 5.

**TOP Code** - Taxonomy of Programs. Numbers assigned to programs to use in budgeting and reporting.

**TRANS** - Districts finance short-term cash flow needs by issuing Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS) through bond underwriters. The notes are paid off with operating revenues.

**Transfers** - Monies that are transferred to and from reserve accounts.

**Unencumbered Balance** - That portion of an appropriation or allotment not yet expended or obligated.

**Unrestricted Funds** - Generally those monies of the General Fund that are not designated by law or a donor agency for a specific purpose. They are legally regarded as unrestricted since their use is at the Board's discretion.

**Warrants** - A written order drawn to pay a specified amount to a designated payee.

\*\* List of terms was compiled from the following sources: “Understanding Funding, Finance and Budgeting” from the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, “Trustee Handbook” from Community College League of California and “California Postsecondary Education Commission –Glossary of Terms”.