



TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Information Systems Officer Association

FROM: Dr. Valerie Lundy-Wagner, Vice Chancellor, Digital Innovation and Infrastructure

RE: System Digital Resources Support

Prior to March 2020, many California Community Colleges (CCCs) had already begun to expand their online offerings as part of hybrid or distance education courses, and in some cases shifting student services such that face-to-face interaction was not always required. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chancellor's Office has been committed to supporting CCCs such that they could ensure the continuation of instruction and needed support to students. Following up on the July and November 2020 memos, this memo provides a reminder of the sunset dates for COVID-19 related state technology investments, an overview of the newly established Statewide Technology Access Collaborative (STAC) purchasing options and process, and an update on the digital access program. To support ongoing local technology purchases, this memo also includes a list of funding streams that allow for technology purchases.

Systemwide Technology Support

Prior to the pandemic, the systemwide technology support was focused on leveraging economies of scale. During the pandemic, to support the continuity of education, new technology purchases were made or scaled and were scheduled to continue through the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year, June 30, 2021. As we continue to push through the pandemic and realize a post-pandemic reality, the systemwide technology support will focus on equity and teaching and learning innovations. Further, the Chancellor's Office continues to advocate for investments in a robust online ecosystem and will continue to monitor final outcomes of the state budget.

The Chancellor's Office funding for Canvas and Zoom, the system's common course management and conferencing communications systems, will remain in place as part of the state funded technology portfolio.

As noted in previous communication, systemwide funding support for Blackboard, Ally and Labster will conclude on June 30, 2021; however, colleges can access CCC preferred pricing agreements for these and other resources through the CollegeBuys program, as noted below, and in alignment with the standard pre-COVID practices. For a listing and description of funded systemwide technology investments, please visit: cvc.edu/ecosystem.

Systemwide Technology Access Collaborative (STAC) & Preferred Pricing

The Chancellor’s Office has worked collaboratively with the California Virtual Campus (“CVC”) and the Foundation for California Community Colleges (“FCCC”) CollegeBuys to deploy programming intended to ensure continued access by our colleges to essential technology tools to support virtual classroom and support services. These programs comprise the Systemwide Technology Access Collaborative (STAC) and preferred pricing agreements exclusively for the CCCs. Updates on each is described in turn below.

STAC

STAC is a Chancellor’s Office guided partnership effort between the CVC and FCCC CollegeBuys that centralizes ordering and acquisition of essential online education tools and resources by community colleges. The result of this collaboration provides colleges with deep discounts through an annual buying window for the system, in which colleges can select and order education technology tools, which are then aggregated by CollegeBuys driving deeper volume-based discounts. CVC provides integration support with the Canvas ecosystem, gathers input for future product enhancements, and aligns professional development support. For the most updated STAC information, please visit ccstac.org.

Other Preferred Pricing Contracts

The Chancellor’s Office has worked collaboratively with the CollegeBuys program to leverage the aggregate buying power of our system and secure advantageous pricing and discounts for additional technology resources listed below.

Preferred Pricing Contracts		
Resource	Tool	More Information
California Connects	Broadband Internet Service	Secured through CA Public Contract Code 20661, special pricing available through June 30, 2022.
Geographic information system software (GIS)	Esri	Secured through CA Public Contract Code 20661, special pricing available through June 30, 2022.
Accessibility for Google G-Suite environments	GrackleDocs	Secured through CA Public Contract Code 20661, special pricing available through December 31, 2022.
Digital and electronic signature platform	Adobe	Secured through CA Public Contract Code 20661, provided at no additional cost to all CCCs participating in the Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (ETLA) through June 30, 2022.
Telehealth services	TimelyMD	Secured through CA Public Contract Code 20661, special pricing available through June 30, 2023.
Contact tracing software and applications	OptimumHQ	Secured through CA Public Contract Code 20661, special pricing available through

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		October 14, 2021 (and may be extended based on CCC usage).
Online student services platform	Cranium Cafe (ConexED)	Secured through CA Public Contract Code 20661, special pricing available through June 30, 2023 (and may be extended based on CCC usage).
Aid (Food) distribution platform	Uber Eats	

For more information on preferred pricing please visit the STAC website (cccstac.org), or contact the CVC (support@cvc.edu) or CollegeBuys (collegebuys@foundationccc.org).

Updates on the Digital Access Program

COVID-19 intensified the digital divide, leaving many community college students without necessary technology tools (e.g., internet access, laptop, and specialized software) to pursue their academic and career journey. In response, the Chancellor's Office, in collaboration with the FCCC CollegeBuys, launched a Digital Access Program to assist in procuring and distributing digital resources to students. To date, the program has supported over 250,000 community college students from the digital divide by providing the following resources:

- **Broadband Internet Service** – California Connects is an affordable internet program exclusively for the California Community Colleges in partnership with Sprint and Mobile Citizen, providing multi-device connection to broadband internet at affordable monthly service rates (\$20) and no contract obligations.
- **Chromebooks, Laptops, and Tablets** – Preferred pricing and discounts available if secured through CollegeBuys, providing deeper discounts than commercially available to the community colleges.
- **Adobe Creative Cloud for Students** – Preferred pricing providing the deepest discounts for higher education in the nation ensure students have continued access to essential classroom software needed for learning and creativity.

For more information on the Digital Access Program, please contact collegebuys@foundationccc.org.

Districts and Colleges Should Leverage All Available Funding

The Chancellor's Office will continue to advocate for system and local investments in a robust Online Education and Support Infrastructure. To prevent interruption in education and services for students, colleges should plan for utilization of local funds to procure the following resources beyond June 30, 2021:

- Accessibility and alternate format for online courses and files (Blackboard Ally)
- Virtual science labs (Labster)
- Online tutoring (NetTutor) beyond the current CVC minimum allocation noted above

Colleges are encouraged to leverage all available funding to create and maintain an effective student-centered virtual learning environment. Funding sources to consider should include general apportionments, federal stimulus resources (one-time funds such as [Higher Education](#)

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Emergency Relief Funds), Proposition 20 lottery apportionment, and Proposition 98 categorical funding sources, including the Student Equity and Achievement Program. Colleges should pay close attention to time limits associated with use of any funding source when making local technology investment decisions to maximize student success efforts alongside fiscal health and stability.

The Chancellor's Office will continue to explore ways to optimize its support to ensure students have equitable access to, and effective delivery of, virtual instruction and services.

Should you have any questions or need further assistance, contact me at vlundywagner@cccoco.edu or 916-322-1928.

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