

How do the House and Senate 2007-09 operating and capital budget proposals address the needs of two-year colleges?

Both proposals provide:

- More students with workforce and transfer preparation through general and targeted enrollments.
- Full- and part-time faculty with \$7.5 million funded increments (step increases). In addition, part-time faculty will benefit from funds (\$7.5 million in the House, \$11.2 in the Senate) to help close the pay gap.
- Low tuition for students, which is a top priority for the State Board. The House and Senate proposals keep tuition low at 2% with a 1% backfill to help colleges meet inflation demands.
- Full funding for the SBCTC capital budget request, including support to cover inflation costs.

The House budget also includes:

- Critical funding to expand Opportunity Grants across the state, putting well-paying jobs within reach to low-income adults.

The Senate budget also includes:

- Funds to replace outdated equipment, so students' learning environments mirror their earning environments.
- Money to expand online learning to serve more placebound students.
- An expansion of the Job Skills Program to serve more customized business training needs.

