

Categorical Funding:

What is it?

- Categorically funded programs are established by the California legislature to provide state mandated minimum standards to a targeted group of students who are either disabled, disadvantaged, or have financial need. Thus, it provides funding to serve students without any cost to the District's general fund. The goal of categorical funding is to insure access and maximize the potential for success of otherwise at risk students.

What are the categorical programs?

- EOPS: Extended Opportunity Programs and Services—The primary goal is to encourage the enrollment, retention and successful transition of students who are economically and educationally disadvantaged.
- DSPS: Disabled Students Programs and Services—Provides support services, specialized instruction, and educational accommodations to students with disabilities so that they can participate equitably from the college experience as their non-disabled peers.
- Matriculation—A standard of method of evaluating skill levels for placement in appropriate classes.
- CalWorks: California Work Opportunities and Responsibilities to Kids—Provides temporary financial assistance and work study employment opportunities for students pursuing training for marketable skills. This program focuses on single parents with dependent children.
- Basic Skills—A state funding source that provides funding for staff development, basic skills instruction and tutoring services to promote student success.

How is it funded?

- Most categorical funding comes directly from state funding sources. Often these categorically funded programs have some type of matching requirement from the colleges and/or district. Sometimes the match is in actual dollars and other times the matching is in-kind. An example of dollar matching would be matriculation. Every dollar in state funds is matched from the district's general fund. An in-kind matching would be the employment of counselors, admissions and records staff, and other staff working directly with student assessment.

What is the impact on South Orange County Community College District?

- Since the SOCCCD is a Basic Aid district, categorical funding is the only funding SOCCCD receives from the state. The SOCCCD district could choose to refuse categorical funding from the state.
- In addition, those positions funded by categorical funds are not calculated in the 50 per cent law. The 50 per cent law requires that a minimum of 50 per cent of all dollars spent by the District must be spent only on classroom instruction.

What is the impact on categorical funding for the SOCCCD Faculty Association?

- There is no impact on the members of the full-time faculty. The only impact categorical funding would have on Faculty Association members would be if the district chose to refuse categorical funding. If it did, then those faculty members who were sponsored by categorical funding and were tenured, i.e., counselors, would have the right to return to the classroom or to other tenured positions within the district. The same would be true if the state, as it has, reduces the funds available for categorical funding. However, part-time faculty members may suffer reduced employment as services are reduced.