



South Orange County
Community College District

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2023



CONTENTS



01

Welcome from
SOCCCD Leaders

02

About
SOCCCD

03

Federal
Representatives

04

Federal Legislative
Priorities

05

California State
Senators

06

California State
Assembly Members

07

State Legislative
Priorities

08

SOCCCD
Legislative Activity

MESSAGE FROM SOCCCD ADVOCACY LEADERS

The South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) has worked hard, since our inception in 1967 to build and strengthen partnerships with governmental agencies, policy makers, and community organizations to support the greatest needs of Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students.

Advocacy and the monitoring of emerging and existing legislation are critical to the work we conduct everyday. With the help of our Federal advocates (Capitol Advocacy Partners) and State advocates (Strategic Education Services), we strive to access resources and tools at the local, state, and federal levels to support Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College students and programs. The Board of Trustees establishes annual legislative priorities to help empower staff, faculty, and students when advocating on behalf of the colleges.



Timothy Jemal
Board President



Dr. Julianna Barnes
SOCCCD Chancellor



Dr. John Hernandez
Irvine Valley College President



Dr. Elliot Stern
Saddleback College President

ABOUT SOCCCD

South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) encompasses 382 square miles in Orange County serving over 909,000 residents in 26 communities. We know that higher education is directly linked to quality of life and economic vitality. We have helped generations of families achieve their educational and career goals since 1967.

Distinguished faculty from Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College provide students with rigorous academic classes to prepare them for transfer to four-year colleges and universities and career technical training.

Emeritus Institutes and community education programs at our colleges offer lifelong learning opportunities for community members of all ages.



Students

Combined, Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College offer 400 degrees and certificates to a diverse population of students to help them achieve their academic and career goals.



Employees

SOCCCD employs over 2,500 classified staff, managers, and part-time and full-time faculty members that work to uphold the mission of the District through efficient operations, student support and instruction.



Budget

The South Orange County Community College District and its two colleges, (Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College) manage a \$1.1 billion dollar budget.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

The following represent SOCCCD in the U.S. House of Representatives:



REP. YOUNG KIM **CA 40TH**

Local Office - 1320 Valley Vista Dr., Suite 205, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Capital Office - 1306 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (714) 984-2440, (202) 225-4111
Representing SOCCCD service areas of Aliso Viejo, Coto de Caza, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and Tustin.



REP. KATIE PORTER **CA 47TH**

Local Office - 2151 Michelson Drive, Suite 195, Irvine, CA 92612
Capital Office - 1233 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (949) 668-6600, (202) 225-5611
Representing SOCCCD service areas of Irvine and Newport Beach.



REP. MIKE LEVIN **CA 49TH**

Local Office - 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 102, Dana Point, CA 92629
Capital Office - 2352 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (949) 281-2449, (202) 225-3906
Representing SOCCCD service areas of Dana Point, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and Trabuco Highlands.

2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SOCCCD has identified several Federal legislative priorities to include, but not limited to the following:



Support Workforce for 21st Century

Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College strive to be on the forefront of workforce and career training, preparing our students for in-demand jobs—whether they are at the start of their career or in the midst of one. SOCCCD has prioritized advocacy for federal policies and programs that provide our colleges with the resources and flexibility needed to create, revitalize, and reimagine programs to fit the needs of Orange County employers.



Veterans

SOCCCD strongly supports our student Veterans. We have prioritized advocacy for federal policies and programs that provide dedicated resources to student veterans, remove barriers to success, and help sustain and expand dedicated services and support centers located at Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College for student veterans.



Basic Needs

Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students are increasingly confronting challenges in housing, nutrition, transportation, as well as mental and physical health that impact their ability to complete their educational goals. We have prioritized advocacy for federal policies and programs that help students overcome these non-academic barriers and support the whole-student as they work towards their educational and career goals.



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

DACA students and their families are valued members of the Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College communities, and we welcome and support them in their educational pursuits. SOCCCD has prioritized advocacy of federal policies and programs that continue to allow these students to pursue their educational goals without fear of deportation.



Capital Support for Students

SOCCCD has prioritized advocacy for innovative ways to expand course offerings and services on-campus that support a welcoming and conducive learning environment. Such expansions can be accomplished through support of infrastructure, campus amenities, or support for specific program needs at Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

The following represent SOCCCD in the California State Senate:



SENATOR JANET NGUYEN
36TH DISTRICT

Capitol Office – 1021 O Street, Suite 7130, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4036
Representing SOCCCD service areas of Newport Beach, San Clemente, Dana Point, and Laguna Beach



SENATOR DAVID MIN
37TH DISTRICT

Local Office – 2151 Michelson Dr., Suite 258, Irvine, CA 92612
Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 6710, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (949) 223-5472, (916) 651-4037
Representing SOCCCD service areas of Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, North Tustin, Orange, Silverado, Tustin, and Villa Park.



SENATOR CATHERINE BLAKESPEAR
38TH DISTRICT

Local Office – 24031 El Toro Rd., Suite 201A, Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 7130, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (949) 598-5850, (916) 651-4038
Representing SOCCCD service areas of Coto de Caza, Ladera Ranch, Laguna Hills, Las Flores, Mission Viejo, Rancho Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and San Juan Capistrano.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

The following represent SOCCCD in the California State Assembly:



ASSEMBLY MEMBER KATE SANCHEZ 71ST DISTRICT

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 4340, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319.2071

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Mission Viejo and unincorporated areas of Orange County.



ASSEMBLY MEMBER DIANE DIXON 72ND DISTRICT

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 5330, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319.2072

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Aliso Viejo, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, and Newport Beach.



ASSEMBLY MEMBER COTTIE PETRIE NORRIS 73RD DISTRICT

Local Office – 19712 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92612

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 4230, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (949) 251-0074, (916) 319-2073

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Irvine and Tustin.



ASSEMBLY MEMBER LAURIE DAVIES 74TH DISTRICT

Local Office – 31473 Rancho Viejo Rd., Suite 104, San Juan Cap., CA 92675

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 4720, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (949) 240-7300, (916) 319-2074

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Dana Point, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano.

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SOCCCD has identified several State legislative priorities to include, but not limited to the following:



Workforce Development Pipeline

Maintaining partnerships with local industry and workforce development leaders throughout Orange County is vital when advocating for an expansion of opportunities for students who are working to earn degrees or certificates for careers in the trades. SOCCCD has prioritized advocacy for our students to access local apprenticeships, internships, externships, etc., to assist in achieving their career goals. This can be accomplished through California incentives for localities to form partnerships with Irvine Valley College, Saddleback College, and other community colleges throughout the State. This advocacy work helps to open opportunities for students while addressing the skills gap in California.



Dual Enrollment and Career Pathway Opportunities

Dual enrollment has increased significantly over the past decade, and the State continues to view the opportunities, especially California College and Career Access Pathway (CCAP) programs, as sound investments for high school students who want to expedite their pathways to colleges or careers. However, several aspects of dual enrollment needs to be addressed, including transportation, access to course materials, and course scheduling conflicts for high school students. SOCCCD has prioritized advocacy for legislation that supports streamlining CCAPs to increase and expand opportunities for students.



Strengthen Student Support through Financial Aid and Student Housing

While the Cal Grant reform to create the Cal Grant/2 Award was beneficial to providing community college students with needed aid above the cost of tuition and fees, it does not take into consideration the high cost of living for areas like Orange County. Student housing projects similarly are more costly to complete due to the cost of acquiring and developing real estate in Orange County, and thus, provide necessary student housing opportunities. SOCCCD has prioritized advocacy for both the Cal Grant and Cal Grant/2 programs to be increased commensurate to the needs of Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students who live in Orange County and experience a higher overall cost of attendance.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

SOCCCD maintains membership with the following organizations and groups to advocate on behalf of Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students:

- **Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)**
- **Community College League of California (CCLC)**
- **Orange County Community Colleges Legislative Task Force (OCCCLTF)**
- **California Community-Funded Coalition (CCFC)**

With your partnership, we can continue the important advocacy work on behalf of Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students -- the next generation of our community's leaders and workforce. For more information about legislative priorities or legislative activity, please contact Chief Communications Officer, Letitia Clark with SOCCCD Public Affairs.

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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