



## Disabled Student Programs and Services

September 2020

### **Program History**

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) was created when Assembly Bill 77 (Lanterman), was enacted in 1976 and codified in Education Code, Section 84850 and Title 5, California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) Sections 56000-56076. It funds support services and instructional programs for students with disabilities in the California Community Colleges. DSPS assists colleges in complying with the requirements of federal and state non-discrimination and civil rights laws, including Sections 504 and 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and California Government Code Sections 11135-11139.5.

### **Description**

The DSPS program provides academic adjustments, auxiliary aids and services to students with disabilities so that they can have full and equitable access to a community college education. In addition, many colleges provide specialized instruction as part of their DSPS program. An Academic Accommodation Plan (AAP) is developed for each student served by DSPS. The AAP defines the student's educational goals and outlines the support services and academic accommodations that will be provided to address the student's specific disability-related educational needs.

Examples of services that may be provided by DSPS that are over and above those regularly offered by the college would be test-proctoring, assessment for learning disabilities, specialized counseling, interpreter or captioning services for hearing-impaired/deaf students, mobility assistance, note-taker services, reader services, transcription services, specialized tutoring, access to adaptive equipment, job development/placement, registration assistance, and special parking.

### **Appropriation for 2020-2021**

\$124,288,000 allocated to community colleges in these amounts:

- \$108,299,306 for general DSPS services and instruction
- \$642,000 to State Developmental Centers for specialized instruction for residents
- \$1,000,000 to the CCC Accessibility Center for training on accessibility and specialized computer equipment for the disabled
- \$1,200,000 to the Alternate Text Production Center to provide Braille and e-text
- \$801,694 to the DSPS Program Accountability & Development Services fund for special projects
- \$1,245,000 for Alternate Media and Equal Access to Print and Electronic Media
- \$1,500,000 for Distance Education Captioning and Transcription to provide deaf and hard of hearing students access
- \$9,600,000 for services to deaf and hard of hearing students

**Total Students served during 2018-19:**

**121,449**

<b>Disability Category</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Acquired Brain Injury	4,178	3.44
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	9,874	8.13
Autism Spectrum	9,578	7.89
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	4,342	3.58
Intellectual Disability	7,215	5.94
Learning Disability	31,666	26.07
Mental Health	24,819	20.44
Mobility	8,770	7.22
Other (including speech)	17,819	14.67
Vision	3,188	2.62

**Eligibility Criteria:**

To be served by DSPS, the student must have a verified disability which results in an educational limitation that inhibits the student’s ability to participate in the general educational program of the college without additional specialized services.

**Critical Issues:**

The funding provided for the DSPS program assists colleges in meeting the federal accommodation requirements for students with disabilities in community colleges. However, the DSPS allocation was not designed to cover all academic adjustments, auxiliary aids and services DSPS students require, especially as new student populations, service delivery systems and new accommodation issues emerge. A new student-centered funding formula started in 2018-19 and included changes to the FTES rates for Educational Assistance Classes offered to students with disabilities.