

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Business Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges

FROM: Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor
Educational Services and Support

RE: AB 607/Education Code §66406.9: Course Materials Cost Publication

Purpose

This memorandum provides guidance on reporting requirements in support of AB 607, which strengthens and ensures transparency for instructional materials costs. Colleges are now required to provide students with the costs of materials and fees for 40 percent or more of courses by January 2025 and 75 percent of courses by January 2028.

Background

The effort to increase transparency and disclosure of course material costs and to improve visibility of courses with no-cost digital materials at the time of registration has been a developing effort supported by federal and state level legislative actions.

- Provisions of the [Higher Education Opportunity Act \(HEOA\)](#) in July 2010 required institutions of higher education receiving federal financial assistance to disclose the International Standard Book Number, retail price information of required and recommended college textbooks and costs of associated supplemental materials for each course listed in the institution's course schedule.
- California Educational Code 66409.9 supported federal HEOA requirements by also requiring California Community Colleges to clearly highlight courses that exclusively used digital course materials and to clearly inform students that these course materials were free of charge. No-cost branding in the form of a symbol or logo displayed in a conspicuous place on the online campus course schedule was developed to guide students in search of courses with no-cost course materials. These legislative actions took steps to increase disclosure of textbook costs and to improve visibility of courses with no-cost course material options for students.

AB 607 Amended Requirements

In October 2023, the approval of AB 607 amended California Education Code §66406.9 to require disclosure of all instructional materials associated with a course. This provision includes digital or physical textbooks, devices such as calculators and remote attendance platforms, and software subscriptions. The amendment also established a minimum percentage of course sections that must provide this information in the class schedule at the time of registration. The approval of AB 607 is a significant development aligned with prior efforts at both the federal and state levels to close price transparency gaps regarding course materials and allow students to make informed decisions when registering for courses.

Based upon the update to [California Education Code §66406.9](#), colleges are required to:

Prominently display, by means that may include a link to a separate internet web page, the estimated costs for each course of all required course materials and fees directly related to those materials, for no less than 40 percent by January 1, 2025, 55 percent by January 1, 2026, 65 percent by January 1, 2027, and 75 percent by January 1, 2028, of the total number of courses on the online campus course schedule for which a faculty member or course instructor has been assigned.

Reporting

To ensure implementation of AB607 with fidelity, the Chancellor's Office will develop a survey that will be sent to Chief Instructional Officers in early January 2025. The purpose of the survey will be to track colleges' progress in meeting the first statutory deadline detailed above. Colleges will be required to provide certification of publication of instructional material costs in their class schedule for no less than 40% of course sections by January 1, 2025. Completed surveys will be returned to the Chancellor's Office no later than January 30, 2025. Any questions regarding AB 607 and related reporting requirements can be submitted to CFunk@CCCCO.edu.

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