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Gov. Shapiro's 2025-26 budget address to a joint session of the General Assembly in the House Chambers at the State Capitol took place today in Harrisburg.

The proposed General Fund expenditure for this budget is \$51.47B, marking a \$3.57B increase, or 7.5% rise, from the approved budget of the 2024-25 budget. The proposal projects a \$1.6B deficit that would be balanced through a rainy-day fund transfer.


The budget address calls for a 4.7% operating increase (\$13M) for Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges. That increase would bring the total operating allocation to the Commonwealth's community college sector to \$290.338M.

From Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges President Dr. Tuesday Stanley:

"The Pennsylvania community college sector is pleased that Gov. Shapiro supports an increase in operating for our 15 institutions. We collectively take great pride in providing affordable, accessible and high-quality education to the citizens of Pennsylvania. The return on investment is significant. Our community colleges contribute over \$13.6 billion annually to the state's economy. The majority of our graduates stay in the Commonwealth, while 80% of our transfer students move on to a Pennsylvania college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree."

"We acknowledge the Governor's support of our sector. With additional investment, Pennsylvania's community colleges could further expand our impact across the Commonwealth through enhanced workforce development programs, public safety/first responder training, and dual enrollment initiatives. Our sector looks forward to continuing productive dialogue with key stakeholders in these areas and by working together to increase operating and capital funding to further allow us to fulfill our mission across Pennsylvania."

A summary of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community College budget request is as follows:

 6% Increase to the Operating Line Item (\$15.7M), current allocation is \$277.338M.

- Supports the rising costs of delivering affordable, high-quality education and workforce training programs.
- Expands access to cutting-edge technology and programs that align with Pennsylvania's workforce needs, such as renewable energy, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing.
- Invests in targeted initiatives to reduce barriers for rural, urban, and first-generation students, ensuring equitable opportunities for success.

 6% Increase to the Capital Budget Line Item (\$3.5M), current allocation is \$54.161M.

- Funds essential facility upgrades and modernization to support hybrid learning and workforce training.
- Addresses deferred maintenance costs of \$356,425,016 to maintain safe, efficient campuses.
- Advances sustainability initiatives, including energy-efficient infrastructure.

 **Non-credit workforce development (\$5M).**

 **Non-credit public safety/first responder training (\$5M).**

 **Increase the budget allocation by \$7.5M for dual enrollment support, current allocation is \$14.5M.**

About Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges

The [Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges](#) is a nonprofit, volunteer membership association and the primary advocate for Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges. Members include the college presidents, members of the colleges' boards of trustees and key college administrators. PACCC provides leadership on issues affecting the colleges and represents the collective needs, vision and values of the colleges to state and federal policymakers. It also assists the colleges in developing positions on their areas of concern, acts as a liaison and facilitator to share information, and coordinates data collection on a statewide level to support the colleges' advocacy efforts.

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