

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 371, *approved January 20, 2026*
Assembly, No. 5182 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Council of County Colleges
2 and amending various parts of the statutory law.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. N.J.S.18A:64A-22 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:64A-22. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
9 Council of County Colleges **[may]** shall submit to the State
10 Treasurer **[annual budget requests]** ², the Secretary of Higher
11 Education², the Governor, and the Legislature, an annual
12 **[unified]**² budget request for State support of county colleges to
13 meet the colleges' ²and State's² strategic priorities. Within the
14 limits of funds appropriated for **[such purposes]** State support of
15 the county colleges, the board of trustees of a county college may
16 based upon the itemized statement fixed and determined pursuant to
17 N.J.S.18A:64A-17 apply to the State Treasurer and receive State
18 support:

19 a. For capital projects in amounts not to exceed one-half of the
20 cost of **[said]** the capital projects, and

21 b. For operational costs to the extent of **[43%]** 43 percent but
22 not to exceed **[50%]** 50 percent of the educational and general
23 costs of the county colleges in the base year; provided, however,
24 that for the purposes of determining State aid, only credit courses
25 and noncredit remedial, developmental, general education
26 development and adult basic education courses shall be included in
27 calculating **[such]** the educational and general costs. This sum shall
28 be distributed to the county colleges by the **[treasurer]** State
29 Treasurer [in consultation with] pursuant to a performance-based
30 formula developed by the Council of County Colleges [according to
31 a formula that includes] and approved by the State Treasurer and
32 the Secretary of Higher Education. The formula shall include
33 categorical support and differential funding based on program costs
34 and shall ensure that all county colleges receive funding in an
35 equitable, results-oriented, and transparent manner. The council
36 shall, every three years, provide to the State Treasurer and secretary
37 any recommended improvements to the performance-based formula
38 to ensure that State aid to the county colleges rewards
39 postsecondary access, equity, and student success.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted February 10, 2025.

²Senate SHI committee amendments adopted December 15, 2025.

1 No county college shall receive more than ~~【50%】~~ 50 percent of
2 its projected educational and general costs through the provisions of
3 this act.

4 Each county which operates a county college shall continue to
5 provide moneys for the support of the college in an amount no less
6 than those moneys provided in the year in which this act is enacted
7 or ~~【25%】~~ 25 percent of the operational expense in the base State
8 fiscal year, whichever is greater.

9 State support for the operational expenses of county colleges
10 shall be made within limits of State appropriation.

11 (cf: P.L.1994, c.48, s.134)

12

13 2. Section 6 of P.L.1989, c.141 (C.18A:64A-28.2) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 6. The council shall have perpetual succession and shall have
16 the following powers and responsibilities:

17 a. To make, amend and repeal rules, regulations and bylaws for
18 its own government and guidance, not inconsistent with the
19 purposes of the council;

20 b. To adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

21 c. To maintain an office at such place or places in the State as
22 it may designate;

23 d. To sue and be sued in its own name;

24 e. To acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property in
25 the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under
26 this article. All this property shall be exempt from taxation under
27 chapter 4 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes;

28 f. To act as an advocate and promote the advancement of the
29 county ~~【community】~~ colleges of New Jersey; ~~【and】~~

30 g. To promote diversity of development among the county
31 ~~【community】~~ colleges in ways which ~~【will】~~ shall be responsive to
32 the particular needs of the particular counties, and the State's
33 diverse population and regions;

34 h. To develop and submit to the Governor, the Secretary of
35 Higher Education, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
36 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a biennial strategic plan outlining a
37 shared vision and set of goals for the county colleges, which are
38 aligned with State educational and economic priorities, and
39 recommending policy solutions to meet the needs of the State as
40 well as the individuals and communities that the county colleges
41 serve¹. The strategic plan shall be developed in consultation with
42 ²State government agencies, ²county college faculty, staff, and
43 students¹;

44 i. To serve as²【the primary】 an² advisory body to the
45 ²【Governor, the Legislature, the Presidents' Council, the】² Office
46 of the Secretary of Higher Education²【, and all other State
47 agencies】² on any matter related to the county colleges, including

1 consulting on the development and design of State laws,
 2 regulations, and State-funded pilot programs and grant programs
 3 that pertain to the county colleges ²1. In fulfilling its advisory
 4 role pursuant to this subsection, the council shall consult with, or
 5 otherwise solicit input from, county college faculty, staff, and
 6 students¹2;

7 j. To develop a performance-based formula to be used in the
 8 distribution of State operational aid to the county colleges, and
 9 recommending improvements to the State Treasurer and the
 10 secretary, pursuant to N.J.S.18A:64A-22;

11 ²k. To serve as the primary vehicle for bringing together county
 12 colleges to implement Statewide initiatives pertaining to the county
 13 colleges, with a focus on:

- 14 (1) student success initiatives;
- 15 (2) academic innovations;
- 16 (3) efforts to support basic needs;
- 17 (4) financial aid and other programs targeted to assist specific
 18 populations of students;
- 19 (5) data- and outcomes-driven decisions; and
- 20 (6) professional development for county college faculty and
 21 staff and for other similar programs²;

22 ²k. To serve as a coordinating body that organizes and expands
 23 collaboration among the county colleges in a variety of areas
 24 impacting student success and institutional advancement;²

25 l. To provide contract services to State departments and
 26 agencies, as permitted pursuant to subsection (a) of section 5 of
 27 P.L.1954, c.48 (C.52:34-10);

28 m. ²l. To enhance the availability of data through collaborations
 29 with the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, the Higher
 30 Education Student Assistance Authority, the Department of Labor
 31 and Workforce Development, the Department of Education, and the
 32 New Jersey Statewide Data System with the goals of:

- 33 (1) developing improved labor market information;
- 34 (2) creating and maintaining an industry-valued credential list;
- 35 and
- 36 (3) developing improved data on county colleges and making
 37 that data publicly available to assist decision making by county
 38 colleges, students, employers, policymakers, and other interested
 39 parties;

40 n.² To ensure strong collaboration, and provide guidance, on
 41 academic issues by undertaking activities including, but not limited
 42 to:

- 43 (1) maintaining a Statewide general education framework for
 44 county colleges ²l. to ensure seamless transfer of credits and approve
 45 general education courses delivered by county colleges, consistent
 46 with the provisions of the Statewide transfer agreement developed
 47 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.175 (C.18A:62-46)²;

(2) approving credit courses used in calculating the educational and general costs for the purposes of determining State operating aid to county colleges pursuant to N.J.S.18A:64A-22;

(3) ²developing and maintaining a unified directory of academic programs; and

(4) developing policies and initiatives to expand academic and workforce-related dual enrollment, provide credit for prior learning opportunities, and improve the transfer experience;

o. To support collaboration and improve efficiency among the county colleges by:

(1) ²operating a Community College Joint Purchasing Consortium, in accordance with section 3 of P.L.2015, c.140 (C.18A:64A-28.2a), that seeks economies in the purchase of goods and services by increasing efficiency, reducing redundancy, sharing services, and promoting regional collaboration and contracting where appropriate;

²[(2)] (4)² convening county college leaders to share promising practices and identify opportunities for collaboration;

²[(3)] (5)² undertaking and promoting professional development for faculty and staff; and

²[(4)] (6)² collaborating on the marketing and promotion of county colleges;

²[p.] n.² To serve as a ²[unified lead]² partner with Statewide business, labor, education, and community organizations to advance equity, opportunity, and prosperity in New Jersey;

²[q.] o.² To build strong partnerships with employers, elementary and secondary schools, four-year colleges and universities, labor unions, workforce development boards, and community-based organizations in developing the New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative ²[and in designing new academic and workforce education and training pathways aligned with the needs of the economy]². To accomplish these responsibilities, the council shall:

(1) ²work in collaboration with State agencies and authorities to² create and document transparent, portable, and stackable credentials and lifelong education and learning for students and workers with a focus on work-based learning opportunities, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, credit for prior learning, lifelong learning accounts, and other models;

(2) annually provide a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), with recommendations for improving equity, labor market outcomes, economic mobility, and employer satisfaction and input from employers on future workforce priorities and needed skills; and

(3) assist the Governor, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority,

1 and other State agencies in planning for the attraction and retention
 2 of businesses, including the design of new open-source curricula
 3 and new credentials to reflect evolving employer technology and
 4 needed skills and the development and promotion of county college
 5 programs that prepare workers for the impact of new technology;

6 ²**[r.]** p.² To facilitate county college requests for capital
 7 funding pursuant to P.L.1971, c.12 (C.18A:64A-22.1 et seq.) and
 8 work in consultation with the State Treasurer to determine capital
 9 projects for which funding shall be allocated; and

10 ²**[s.]** q.² To assist in the administration of funds provided to
 11 county colleges pursuant to the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and
 12 Technical Education Act of 2006, Pub.L.109-270 (20 U.S.C. s.2301
 13 et seq.).

14 (cf: P.L.1989, c.141, s.6)

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 16 3. Section 8 of P.L.1989, c.141 (C.18A:64A-28.4) is amended
 17 to read as follows:

18 8. The council shall encourage and aid movements which it
 19 deems necessary for the improvement of county college education
 20 and ensure collaboration among the county colleges on academic
 21 issues. The council shall, from time to time, make recommendations
 22 to the Governor, the Legislature [and Commission on Higher
 23 Education regarding the coordination of the county colleges on
 24 matters of mutual interest and concern] , the Presidents' Council,
 25 ²and² the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education ²[, and all
 26 other State agencies on any issue concerning the county colleges,
 27 pursuant to its authority as the primary advisory body on county
 28 college issues]².

29 (cf: P.L.1994, c.48, s.148)

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 31 4. N.J.S.18A:64A-29 is amended to read as follows:

32 18A:64A-29. The council **[will]** shall seek to ensure acceptable
 33 and effective lines of development in admissions policy, academic
 34 standards, programs, financing, including **[recommending to the**
 35 **State Treasurer a]** the requirement enumerated in N.J.S.18A:64A-
 36 22 that the council develop a performance-based formula for the
 37 allocation of annual appropriations among the county colleges and
 38 making recommendations for capital funding, and community
 39 relations in the several county colleges.

40 The council **[will]** shall serve as a means of communication
 41 between the county colleges, and act as a resource center to aid
 42 them in planning, act as a clearing house of information, and
 43 provide continuing field services.

44 The council **[will]** shall act as **[an]** ²**[the primary]** an² advisory
 45 body to the Governor, the Legislature, [Commission on Higher
 46 Education and] ²the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education,
 47 and² ²[.]² the Presidents' Council [in the carrying out of their

1 respective duties and responsibilities deriving from this chapter] ²[,
2 the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and all other State
3 agencies on any issue concerning the county colleges]².

4 (cf: P.L.1999, c.46, s.42)

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6 5. Section 5 of P.L.1954, c.48 (C.52:34-10) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 5. Any such purchase, contract or agreement may be made,
9 negotiated or awarded pursuant to section 3 of [this act] P.L.1954,
10 c.48 (C.52:34-8) when:

11 (a) the purchase is to be made from, or the contract to be made
12 with, the Federal or any State Government or any agency or
13 political subdivision thereof, including the New Jersey Council of
14 County Colleges; or

15 (b) the public exigency requires the immediate delivery of the
16 articles or performance of the service; or

17 (c) only 1 source of supply is available; or

18 (d) more favorable terms can be obtained from a primary source
19 of supply; or

20 (e) articles of wearing apparel are to be purchased which are
21 styled or seasonal in character; or

22 (f) commodities traded on a national commodity exchange are
23 to be purchased and fluctuations of the market require immediate
24 action; or

25 (g) the equipment to be purchased is of a technical nature and
26 the procurement thereof without advertising is necessary in order to
27 assure standardization of equipment and interchangeability of parts
28 in the public interest.

29 (cf: P.L.1954, c.48, s.5)

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31 6. This act shall take effect immediately.
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36 Modernizes responsibilities of New Jersey Council of County
37 Colleges.