



## **Resolution Urging PCCD to Refund Students**

*For Consideration on April 7, 2020*

Whereas, the six-county shelter in place began on March 16, limiting non-essential services throughout the East Bay cities that the Peralta Community College District serves;

Whereas, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, a survey of Peralta Community College District students found that basic needs insecurity is widespread<sup>1</sup> amongst our student population, with “the majority of Peralta students reported challenges with accessing sufficient, affordable, nutritious foods and securing regular, safe, affordable housing. These results illuminate the pervasiveness of student food and housing insecurity and shed light on the ways in which these conditions impact Peralta students’ academic progress and outcomes.”<sup>2</sup>

Whereas, the survey cited “a clear need for systemic action ensuring that equitable institutional supports are put in place to meet all students’ basic needs for food and shelter that are a prerequisite for academic success”.

Whereas, the shelter in place has disrupted the ability to work for many of our students, many of whom rely on service industry jobs which are considered “non-essential”;

Whereas Peralta Community College District has an estimated five to six percent of our total student population that is comprised of international students from 70 different countries that study with an I-20 student visa that does not allow them to work off-campus without prior authorization<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas, community college districts in the Bay Area such as Ohlone<sup>4</sup>, City College of San Francisco<sup>5</sup>—which is undergoing a financial crisis<sup>6</sup>—and Contra Costa Community College

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<sup>1</sup> <https://medium.com/laney-tower/disparities-in-food-and-housing-run-high-thirty-percent-of-peralta-students-homelessness-3a343e9a67b1>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ccleague.org/sites/default/files/training-materials/pccd\\_report\\_of\\_spring\\_2017\\_student\\_food\\_housing\\_survey.pdf](https://www.ccleague.org/sites/default/files/training-materials/pccd_report_of_spring_2017_student_food_housing_survey.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://web.peralta.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Spring-2018-Handbook-Section-1.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.ohlone.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Student\\_Health\\_Center/COVID-19/guidelines\\_on\\_refunds.pdf](https://www.ohlone.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Student_Health_Center/COVID-19/guidelines_on_refunds.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ccsf.edu/en/community.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.sfchronicle.com/local-politics/article/CCSF-faces-dire-budget-crisis-8-years-after-14993406.php>

District<sup>7</sup> have all offered students refunds, some offering students a reimbursement of all of their fees including health fees and parking fees;

Resolved, the Laney College Faculty Senate urges the Peralta Community College District administration to refund all fees to students who by no fault of their own have been forced to drop their classes as a matter of survival.

*Approved unanimously on April 7, 2020*

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2020/04/01/community-colleges-extend-drop-deadlines-offer-refunds-due-to-coronavirus-threat/>