

Online Comment submitted by AFT 2121 on November 22, 2017

To: Governor Jerry Brown  
Chancellor Eloy Oakley  
Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

**Re: AFT 2121 Response to Fully Online College Proposal**

AFT 2121 writes in opposition to all the options in the FLOW Online College proposal.

First, most California community colleges already have their own online classes and furthermore the OEI project gives students access to all the CCC online classes statewide.

This is an alleged solution to a problem that does not exist.

Ironically, the students who are supposedly helped by this proposal are mainly the students who do not perform as well in online courses. How is creating an entire new online college actually going to help? The evidence simply does not support the idea that this initiative will help.

This all begs the question “Who actually benefits from this initiative?” The group of folks and interests that put this initiative together are not inclusive of the broad concerns of the students and constituencies of the California Community College system. The suggestion that the Western Governors University is the model to follow, especially without an inclusive discussion, leads us to suspect that private interests, not underserved students, are the primary beneficiaries of this plan.

We also have basic questions about the quality control for education. Who will teach these classes? Will it be all part-time instructors? Will there be professional development obligations? Will this simply be a testing mill with minimal teacher-student interaction? Will this be an “Uber Goes to College” model where professionals’ jobs are reduced to a permanent gig economy?

This is simply a bad idea that should be rejected. The other public systems in California have rejected them for the reasons above. We hope that initiatives in the future will address the real problems of our state’s educational system: chronic underfunding, a viable and consistent plan to address the achievement gap, the upgrading of a stable and professional workforce.

Sincerely,

Tim Killikelly, President  
American Federation of Teachers Local 2121