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# MCCCD to vote on tax increase

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By Mary Beth Faller  
The Republic | azcentral.com  
Sun May 19, 2013 8:58 PM

Property owners could see higher taxes if the Maricopa County Community College District governing board gives final approval on Tuesday.

Last month, the board gave preliminary approval to a budget that includes about \$8.1 million in additional revenue that would be funded by a 2 percent increase in the colleges' property-tax levy. The increase, which would mean an additional \$2.31 in taxes per \$100,000 of assessed property, would go into effect July 1.

In March, the colleges increased tuition by \$5 per credit hour. The board last increased tuition and the property-tax levy in 2011.

The tax and tuition increases, along with \$8.3 million from taxes on new construction in the county, will add about \$29 million to the proposed \$715 million operating budget.

The college district wants to spend some of the extra money on improving the lackluster success rate of its students. The rate of students who either graduate or successfully transfer to another institution, such as Arizona State University, is below 50 percent.

About \$2.3 million will be spent to hire 32 full-time professors. The colleges want to eventually have 60 percent of all teachers classified as full time and 40 percent as part time, or adjunct. That's the reverse of the current percentages.

About \$5 million would go toward technology and staff for two major initiatives.

The Seamless Student Experience Initiative, which is under way, will create a single identity for students, simplifying [financial aid](#) and transcripts and eventually providing personalized content.

The Student Success Initiative will require placement testing, advising and orientation, as well as a mandate that students take the [courses](#) they test into. Late registration will be eliminated.

Students who test into two remedial courses will be required to take a college-success class.



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"We're going to be making some things mandatory, and we've never done that before," Gaye Murphy, associate vice chancellor for business services, said during a budget briefing last week.

The revenue also would be spent on additional public-safety officers, technology upgrades, more need-based and academic scholarships and health-insurance and salary increases.

There will be a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, after which the governing board will vote on the tax increase and budget. The board meets on the second floor of the district office, 2411 W. 14th St., Tempe.

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