

One Pager on Establishing Locally Defined Low Textbook Cost (LTC) Thresholds

- In Spring 2021 the SRJC Academic Senate passed a resolution establishing low textbook costs of \$50 or less [FYI: the original proposal was to define at \$30 or less]
- In Fall 2022, the ASCCC passed resolution 17.05 Adopt Student Senate for California Community Colleges Low-Cost Recommendation that “encourage local academic senates to adopt \$30 or less as their locally established cost threshold that must not be exceeded for a course to be considered low-cost for designating and reporting purposes.”
 - a subsequent ASCCC resolution *in Spring 2023 (13.06 Establishing Low Textbook Costs Parameters)* reinforced the support for \$30 or less level as recommended by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (resolution 17.05 F22).
- Also in Spring 2023, the ASCCC passed resolution 130.01 Low Textbook Cost Designation and Search in CVC Online Course Finder establishing LTC designations at \$30 or less in the CVC’s online course finder.
- In Summer 2024 XB12 Data-Element document (*California Community Colleges Management Information System Data Element Dictionary*) was updated.
- In related planning activities between first two meetings of the Fall 2026 semester, the following information was identified: **"The Chancellor's Office will officially standardize LTC courses as \$30.00 or less (pre-tax retail price) by summer 2027" (see Allan Hancock College here, bottom of the page)"**
- President Stover reached out to ASCCC officials for verification of the above statement, especially given local definitions of LTC's (as last updated August 16, 2026). Michelle Pilati offered this additional context for our consideration:
- **...Thanks for this reminder that we need to make a point of explaining this. The Chancellor's Office has not done much communicating about this and clear communication is definitely needed. Effective summer 2027, the low-cost threshold for the XB12 section level data element will be \$30 - aligned with the ASCCC position and the student senate's position. Please note that it is also ASCCC's position that \$30 should be the threshold for the purposes of the CVC Exchange - if/when they start doing that marking. Effective summer 2027, the low-cost threshold for the XB12 section level data element will be \$30 - aligned with the ASCCC position and the student senate's position. Please note that it is also ASCCC's position that \$30 should be the threshold for the purposes of the CVC Exchange - if/when they start doing that marking.** There are districts that have already changed to \$30 and some that are actively discussing it. While there is no requirement that colleges make a change, effective with summer 2027 MIS reporting your college will have to be tracking which sections are below \$30 (or not reporting low-cost sections at all) and if/when there is a low-cost marking in the CVC Exchange, your sections would not be marked low-cost if they were more than \$30. And you'd need to explain those inconsistencies to your students. In other words, you don't have to make the change, but there are lots of reasons that you would want to do so. While I would love to see everyone at 0, I am hoping that if we were all at \$30 it would lead commercial publishers to reduce costs to below \$30.
- Additional Resources [see Understanding Instructional Materials] and other considerations:
 - *Maintaining two systems for LTC – one for marking and one for reporting – is cumbersome and awkward.*
 - *If you simply opt to not report LTC sections, it is not going to look good when those data are generally available.*
 - *Assuming you're offering courses through CVC, you won't be equipped to have LTC sections marked.*