

Cradle-to-Career Data System Fact Sheet

Background

In 2019, the California State Legislature passed the [California Cradle-to-Career Data System Act](#), which sets out requirements for the development of a statewide data infrastructure. This legislation required that the data system ensure that existing educational, workforce, financial aid, and social service information is fully leveraged to address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students from cradle to career.

In early 2020, the California Governor's Office launched an 18-month planning process with support from WestEd. The effort is focused on ensuring the data provided will be useful to a broad range of audiences including students and families, educators, researchers, policy-makers, and advocates. More than 100 people are participating in a user-centered design process, drawn from 16 state agencies, plus education institutions, research organizations, data experts, and advocacy groups. When the process completes in June 2021, these experts will have produced detailed plans for the first phase of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System.

Cradle-to-Career Data System Goals

The Cradle-to-Career data system will be California's source of actionable data and research on education, economic, and health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. It will also expand access to tools and services to navigate the education to employment pipeline.

By securely connecting data that schools, colleges, social service agencies, financial aid providers, and employers already collect, it will be easier to:

- Identify the types of supports that help more students learn, stay in school, prepare for college, graduate, and secure a job
- Provide information that teachers, parents, advisors, and students can use to identify opportunities and make decisions
- Help agencies plan for and improve educational, workforce, and health and human services programs
- Support research on improving policies from birth through career

Proposed Data Tools

The Cradle-to-Career data system will provide information through several different types of tools:

Access to Information About Institutions and Groups of Students

- Easy-to-use dashboards
- Sophisticated query tools
- Short printable summaries on key facts
- A library of research studies
- A process for requesting additional information in order to conduct research studies

Access to Information for and About Specific Students and Courses

The following resources will be provided by expanding two existing tools to serve the whole state: CaliforniaColleges.edu/California College Guidance Initiative and eTranscript California

- College and career planning tools and curriculum
- College eligibility monitoring tools
- Electronic transcripts, including nontraditional learning artifacts
- Option to share social service history with college application
- Support for data cleaning at local education agencies

Stay Informed

In Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, you can join a series of informational [webinars](#) that are designed for specific audiences and provide your feedback on the proposed tools and resources.

Detailed information about the data system is available on the [project website](#), including [detailed descriptions](#) of the specific information that will be available and how it can be accessed.

All planning meetings are open to the public online through Zoom. The project website includes a [calendar](#) through June 2021. Copies of documents referenced at the meetings, PowerPoint presentations, meeting recordings, and meeting notes are also posted on this website. Please join our [listserv](#) to receive notices of meetings and updates.

Please contact us at mmaster@wested.org for any questions.

Website: <https://cadatasystem.wested.org/>