

California Cradle-to-Career Data System Operational Tool Assessment Overview

California College Guidance Initiative

<p>Description</p>	<p>The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) manages CaliforniaColleges.edu, the state's K–12 student-facing college and career planning platform. Academic transcript data is housed within students' postsecondary planning portfolios. Transcript data follows their applications to California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State Universities (CSU) to support key decisions about admissions, placement, guidance, and supportive services. Key data also follow their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Dream Act applications to facilitate the determination of Cal Grant eligibility. Starting in fall 2020, students will be able to launch their University of California (UC) applications within CaliforniaColleges.edu.</p> <p>During the 2019–20 academic year, CCGI served more than 500,000 students. This includes managing accounts for planning tools for 363,000 students in grades 6–12, launched 79,400 college applications from CaliforniaColleges.edu, and provided 120,000 transcripts to community colleges to support first-year course recommendations. CCGI is a nonprofit under the fiscal sponsorship of the Foundation for California Community Colleges and is currently funded by Proposition 98, CSU Office of the Chancellor, fees, and grants.</p>
<p>Problems the Expansion Proposes to Solve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce equity gaps in college-going rates by ensuring that all students and their families have the information needed to develop college and career plans, starting in grade 6, and to secure financial aid • Enable K–12 counselors to monitor where students are applying and support them to complete applications • Identify K–12 courses that are incorrectly flagged as fulfilling CSU and UC eligibility requirements compared to the UC Course Management Portal • Reduce structural barriers by allowing students to launch college and financial aid applications from a single location, using one set of log-on credentials • Ensure students can easily and quickly transmit academic records to CCC and CSU when applying • Share additional information with the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to validate and reduce the time to determine Cal Grant eligibility • Reduce administrative burden on K–12 districts and colleges to transmit and validate records • Strengthen data that can be used to match student records

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift the cost of college and career planning tools, monitoring tools, e-transcripts, and data quality improvement from K–12 districts and the CSU Office of the Chancellor to the state
College and Career Planning Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free college and career planning curriculum and website for grades 6–12, designed to provide touch points 3–6 times a year Financial aid curriculum for grades 9–12 Support to K–12 districts to plan for and monitor use of planning tools and curriculum
Student Progress Monitoring Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables students and their families to determine if they are on track to meet college qualifications, based on their individual goals Allows authorized K–12 counselors to view progress of individual students on meeting CSU and UC eligibility requirements
Data Quality Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validates a-g flags in local student information systems against the UC Course Management Portal Provides technical assistance to K–12 districts on data clean up Provides SSID to CCC, CSU, and CSAC so that information stored in local systems will improve matches for research purposes and the Cradle-to-Career system
Data Elements Currently Transmitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learner identity information Institution information For CCC Apply: K–12 student identifier (SSID) For Community College Multiple Measures Placement Service: SSID, courses, grades, a-g status, AB540 eligibility, foster youth status For Cal-State Apply: SSID, grade 9–11 courses and grades, work in progress from the first semester of grade 12, course transcript verification flags For UC: token used so can return information on incomplete or submitted UC application, campus selections For CSAC: SSID associated with the launch of a FAFSA or California Dream Act application
Current Data Transmission	Transcripts are processed in near real-time, using an application program interface (API) for CCC and CSU, and data are exchanged through a secure file transfer protocol (sFTP) for CSAC every two weeks and UC every week during application season
Proposed Expanded Functionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow K–12 students to give permission to inform CCCs and CSUs if they are first-generation college going, homeless, migrant, or economically disadvantaged Provide race/ethnicity, grade point average, high school graduation status, and where students applied to college to CSAC through a faster API format

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepopulate CCC and CSU application fields related to SSID, transcript data, and demographic information • Develop new planning tools related to career and technical education pathways, apprenticeships, transfer options, and regional labor markets • Potentially shift data provision from K–12 districts to the California Department of Education (CDE)
Proposed Expanded Scale	Expand the number of K–12 institutions that participate in CCGI for free
Legal Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education data transmitted in compliance with FERPA, with consent given by the K–12 districts or CDE in compliance with 34 CFR § 99.31 (a)(1)(i)(B), 34 CFR § 99.31 (a)(2), 34 CFR § 99.31 (a)(4), and 34 CFR § 99.31 (a)(3) • Data sharing agreements between the CCGI and K–12 districts or CDE to provide information on a-g flags • If data are provided by CDE, amend California Education Code 60900(d) to include CCGI
Cost to Scale	\$8.5 million
Annual Cost to Maintain	\$12.8 million–\$13.1 million

eTranscript California

Description	<p>Since 2008, eTranscript California has facilitated electronic transcript requests and delivery across California's postsecondary systems, with an emphasis on those areas unique to California student transcripts such as the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), CSU general education requirements (GE Breadth), Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT), certification notifications, and support for district transcripts. eTranscript California currently serves 103 colleges, passing 303,000 transcripts per year, and is funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and fees.</p>
Problems the Expansion Proposes to Solve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all CCC, CSU, private, and independent college students can easily and quickly transmit academic records when enrolling in a new college or transferring from a two-year to a four-year institution • Allow students to share nontraditional learning records as colleges expand their focus to include competency-based education • Reduce administrative burden on colleges to transmit records • Decrease the need to validate information or rescind acceptance offers by improving consistency and accuracy of transcript information being transmitted • Address equity gaps in cases where transfer to a four-year institution is first-come, first-served, by eliminating barriers to transmitting academic records • Identify structural barriers to securing a college education by determining when students would benefit from additional supports related to food, housing, medical coverage, and foster youth status • Shift the cost of transmitting records from students, colleges, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to the state
Data Elements Currently Transmitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner identity information • Institution information • Degrees, certificates, and awards • Course and grade history, including support for transfer credits • GPA summaries
Current Data Transmission	<p>Transcripts are processed in near real-time, by transmitting information directly from one institution to another. Requests may be initiated and fulfilled through automated or manual processes. eTranscript California does not retain a copy of the transcript.</p>

Proposed Expanded Functionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade underlying technology structure for community colleges to support integration with local enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and remove the need for manual processing • Transition to EdExchange platform to adopt national standards and improve security • Expand beyond academic transcripts to transmit nontraditional records like competency-based credentials and badges • Allow K–12 and postsecondary students to give permission for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to inform a postsecondary institution if they have received CalWORKs, CalFresh, or MediCal, and if they are a foster youth • Provide technical support to students
Proposed Expanded Scale	All students, CCC, CSU, private, and independent postsecondary institutions in California would participate in eTranscript California for free
Legal Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participating institution would enter individually into an agreement with the eTranscript California service and becomes a member of the exchange, with records only exchanged with other members • Education data transmitted in compliance with FERPA, with consent given by the learner directly to the sending institution or represented by the requesting institution in compliance with 34 CFR § 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B) • CDSS data transmitted in compliance with HIPAA, with consent given by the learner directly to the sending institution
Cost to Scale	\$6 million
Annual Cost to Maintain	\$864,000