The California Cradle-to-Career Data System

September 2020

What is Cradle-to-Career?

- In 2019, California enacted the [Cradle-to-Career Data System Act](), which called for the establishment of a state longitudinal data system to **link existing** education, social services, and workforce information.

- The Act articulated the scope of an **18-month planning process** to be shaped by a workgroup that consists of the partner entities named in the Act. The planning process, which is being overseen by the Governor's Office and managed by WestEd, runs from January 2020-June 2021.

- **Partner entities** include the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, California Community Colleges, California Department of Education, California Department of Social Services, California Department of Technology, California Health and Human Services Agency, California School Information Services, California State University, California Student Aid Commission, Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Employment Development Department, Labor and Workforce Development Agency, State Board of Education, and University of California.

Planning Deliverables and Budget

- Suggestions from this workgroup will inform two reports to the legislature (which will first be approved by the Governor's Office). The first report will be submitted in December 2020. The planning team has been meeting with the Governor's Office and legislative staff throughout the year to inform them of decisions that have already been completed.

- The process will also generate highly specific workflows, technical designs, legal agreements, dashboard and query tool content descriptions, and a research agenda. Many of these will be complete by December 2020, which would make it possible to move directly to implementation at the end of the planning process.

- The Act included $10 million in funding, including $5.7 million in implementation funds (but the implementation funds require authorization by the legislature before they can be used).

Rationale

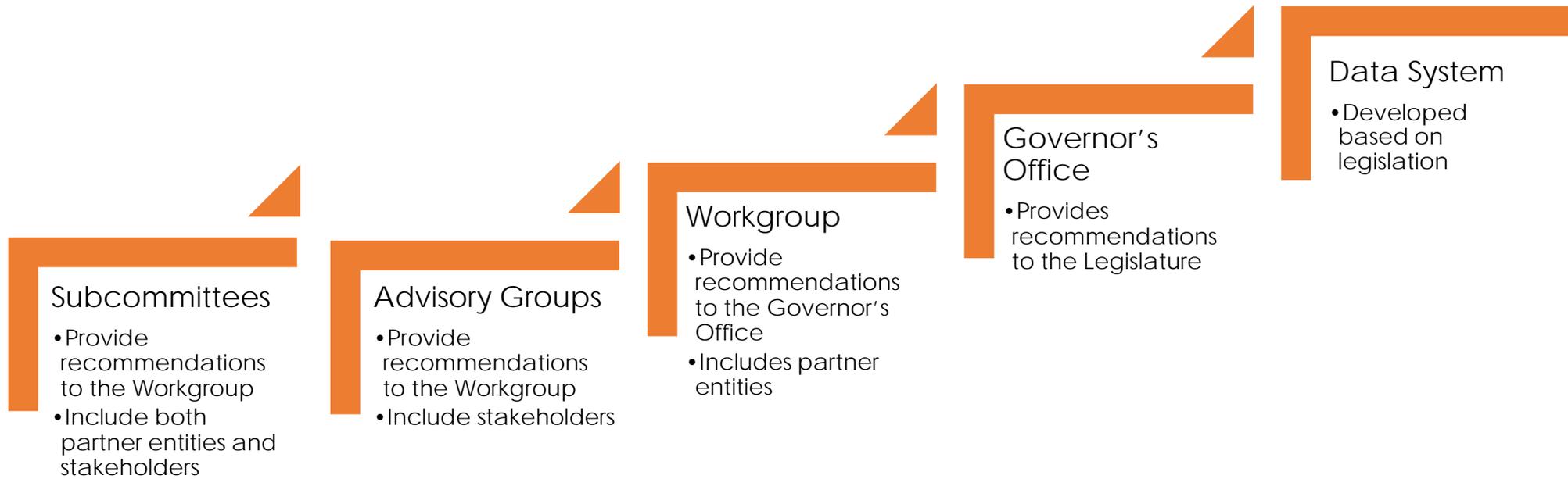# Why is California building a linked data system now?

- California has successfully linked data between education, employment, social service, and health agencies for decades, but usually through **one-off** legal and technical mechanisms

- The Cradle-to-Career planning process is intended to design a system that will make it **easier** for state agencies to share information **securely**, and to articulate a **shared vision** about specific ways that data should be leveraged to improve the lives of Californians

- In addition, the process has identified ways to make data more **readily available** to students, families, educators, and social service providers in an actionable, consistent manner

- The pandemic has made clear that we need more accurate and comprehensive information about the intersection of education, social and health services, and economic outcomes to **allocate resources wisely** and **reduce equity gaps**

What would the data system allow California to do?

- Identify, share, and strengthen the factors that help Californians meet critical milestones in the **pipeline** from early care to K-12 to higher education and employment

- Work together to improve **equitable** outcomes for individuals, families, and communities

- Provide **actionable**, **reliable** information

- Offer support for using data to make **decisions**
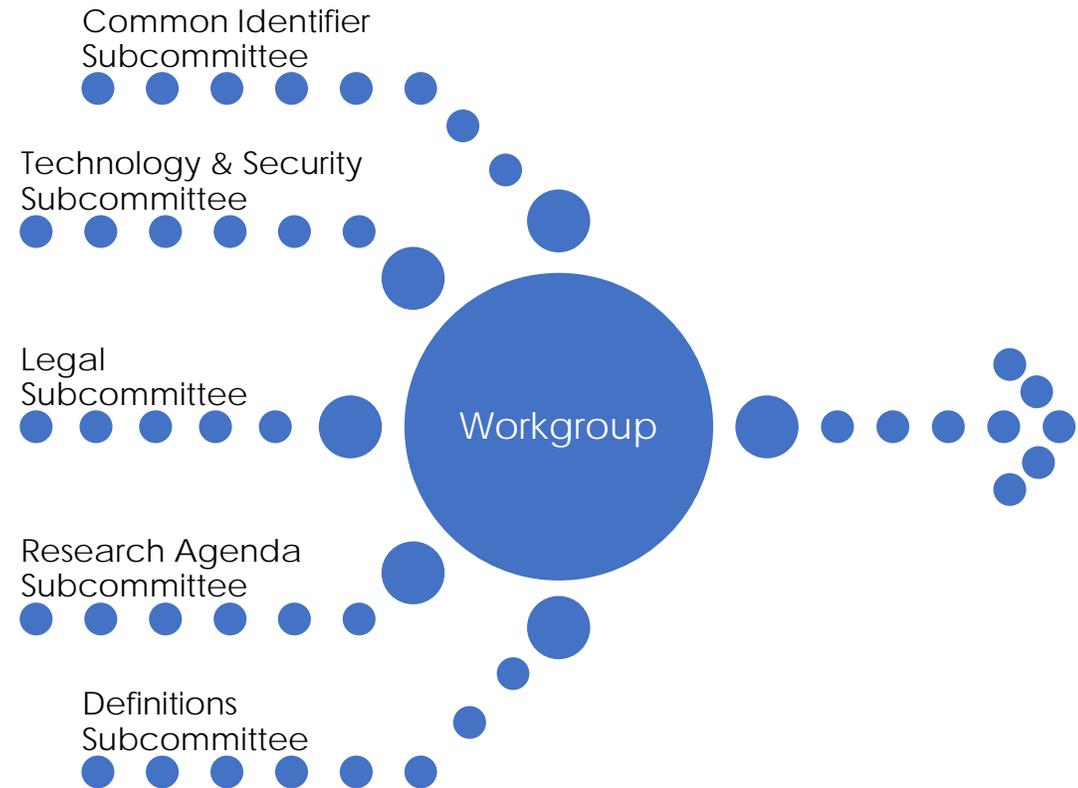
Planning Process

California Cradle-to-Career Data System Design Process

Subcommittees
- Provide recommendations to the Workgroup
- Include both partner entities and stakeholders

Advisory Groups
- Provide recommendations to the Workgroup
- Include stakeholders

Workgroup
- Provide recommendations to the Governor's Office
- Includes partner entities

Governor's Office
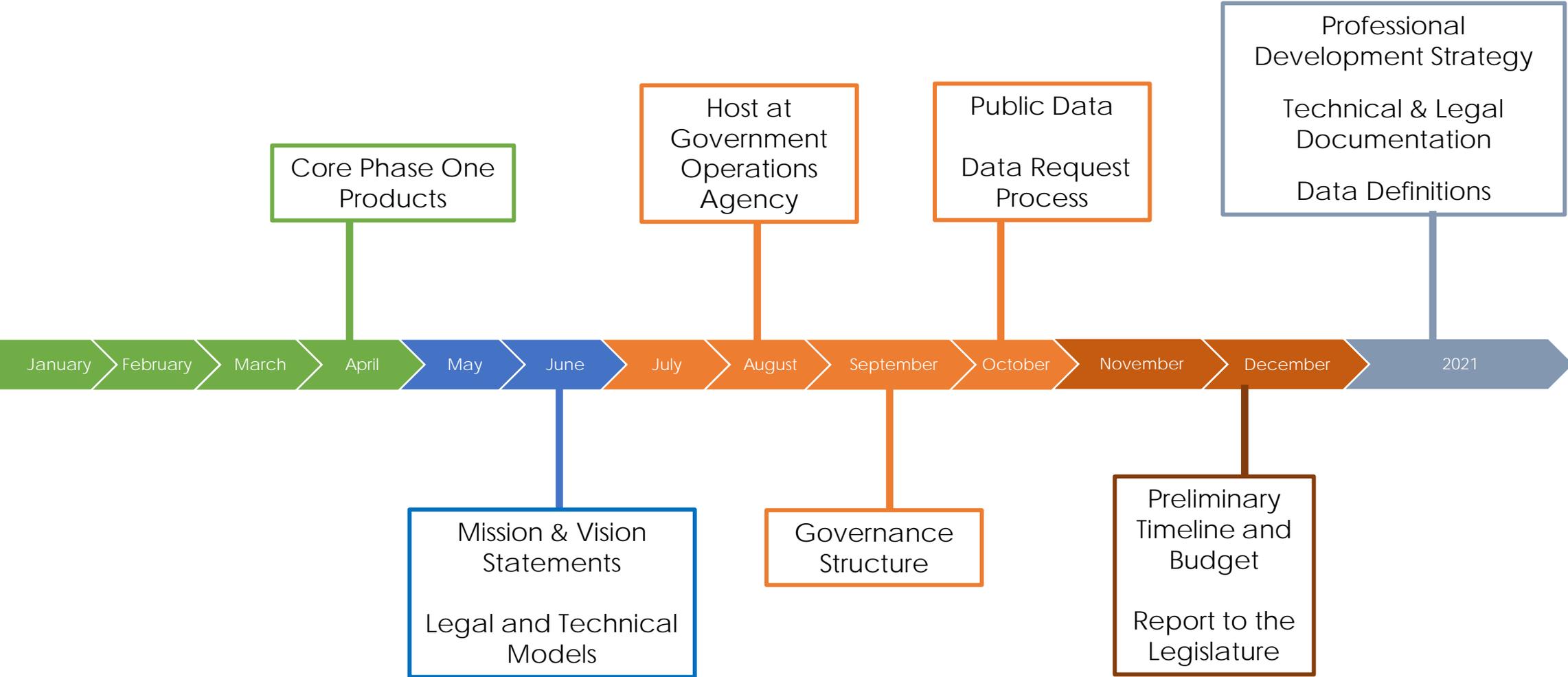- Provides recommendations to the Legislature

Data System
- Developed based on legislation

For details, reference the document "California Cradle to Career Data System Design Process" at cadatasystem.wested.org

Subcommittee Structure

- Subcommittees develop technical recommendations for the workgroup.

- Members include both representatives from the partner entities and other content experts.

Common Identifier Subcommittee

Technology & Security Subcommittee

Legal Subcommittee

Workgroup

Research Agenda Subcommittee

Definitions Subcommittee

Planning Timeline

| January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | 2021 |

Core Phase One Products (April)

Host at Government Operations Agency (August)

Public Data / Data Request Process (October)

Professional Development Strategy / Technical & Legal Documentation / Data Definitions (2021)

Mission & Vision Statements / Legal and Technical Models (June)

Governance Structure (September)

Preliminary Timeline and Budget / Report to the Legislature (December)
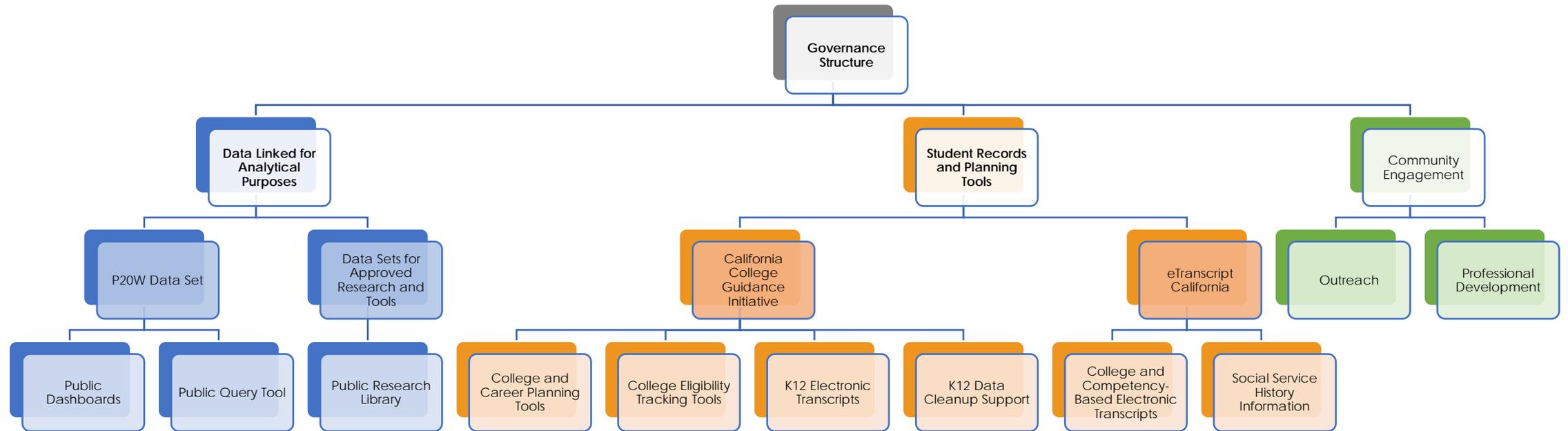
Phase One Priorities

What are the key attributes of the system?

- Provide a variety of mechanisms to access information, which are **tailored** to the specific needs of different groups (students and families, practitioners, policy makers, researchers)

- **Complement**, rather than supersede, existing mechanisms for data sharing

- **Reduce time** and/or personnel burdens

- Build **trust** and collaboration

- Allow **flexibility** for the system to evolve over time

- Improve alignment and **quality** of data

Phase One Products

How will the system be created and managed?

This topic is being discussed by the workgroup and advisory groups during September. Preliminary concepts include:

- This will be a **hybrid cloud-based data system**, with information linked for purpose-specific data pulls, where partner entities will retain control over the information they provide

- Individual records will be matched using a **master data management solution** once a year and data will be linked to create public-facing tools and approved data sets

- Data will be extracted and de-identified for research projects upon approval through a **data request process**

- Technical management, community engagement, and professional development will be provided by the managing entity, a new program within the **Government Operations Agency**, with oversight from a governing board made up of data contributors and community members

- The student records and planning tools will be under the same governance umbrella, but data from these tools **will not be mixed** with analytical data sets