



California Education Policy, Student Data, and the Quest to Improve Student Progress

Campaign for College Opportunity's
Blueprint for Higher Education Capitol Briefing Series
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Education Data Systems: What does California have?

- 4 Longitudinal Student Data Systems
 - CDE (CALPADS)
 - CCCCO
 - CSU CO
 - UCOP
- Data collected (end-of-term/year)
 - Demographics
 - Course enrollments
 - Testing
 - Graduation/certificates/degrees
 - Financial aid
 - Transfers (NSC)
 - Wages (EDD)

What's Wrong With 4 Good Data Systems But No SLDS?

1. Disconnected
 - Reinforces siloed planning
 - Data fragmentation
 - Creates confusion among stakeholders
2. Inaccessible
 - Reliant on the systems for information
 - Data for compliance; system framing
3. Inefficiencies
 - Duplication of effort/costs

Biggest problem:

Disconnected + Inaccessible = Unanswerable Questions

Some Questions Policymakers Can't Answer

- Impact of policy initiatives
 - Local Control Funding Formula
 - Associate Degree for Transfer
- Consequences of funding/policy choices
 - Capacity constraints in universities
 - ROI of different college pathways; cost per degree

Some Questions Practitioners Can't Answer

- K-12
 - College-going/first-year success rates of HS grads
 - Outcomes of CTE students
- Higher ed
 - Teacher training outcomes
 - Drop-out outcomes

Some Questions Students and Parents Can't Answer

- College choice decision-making
 - Time-to-degree
 - Employment/average wages
 - Average loan debt
- Can't compare options/pathways

Equity Questions Abound

- How do access/enrollment, progress, and outcomes vary by students' race/ethnicity, income level, region of the state, or other important factors?
- Does the impact of policy choices/initiatives vary?
- Which schools/colleges are having more success getting good outcomes for underserved students?

What are the Barriers to a Statewide Data System in CA?

- Mostly political/cultural factors
 - Leadership
 - Trust/relationships
 - Deciding on governance for a system
- Capacity/time
- A few technical issues

Things to Consider Moving Forward

- State's context and history:
 - Pretty good existing data systems at the segments
 - No natural “who,” and trust is an issue
 - Segments want control, but need cross-sector data
 - Appetite for information in the field, but little capacity
 - Analytical capacity in research centers/universities
- Make decisions in the context of values/policy criteria

Now's the time!

- California lagging far behind other states
- Focus of the new Administration, willing to invest
- Start with what we have
- Develop other systems to add (early learning, private postsecondary)
- Build system that can be expanded beyond education (social services, health, etc.)

Questions?

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