

# Becoming College Ready with CaliforniaColleges.edu

American School Counselor Association Conference

July 15, 2025



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Navigate  
AND  
Innovate  
JULY 12-15, 2025  
LONG BEACH, CALIF.

# Learning Objectives

After attending this session you will be able to:

1. Understand how [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu) aligns to ASCA and CASC standards
2. Observe best practices for implementing and improving [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu) lessons from a first year district and multi-year district.





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# Welcome and Introductions



**Selma Gonzalez**

Director, Engagement & Implementation  
Central California, CCGI



**Stephanie  
Frazier**

District Lead Counselor  
*Clovis Unified*



**Krista Taylor**

Coordinator, College & Career Readiness  
*Visalia Unified*



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# California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI)

## Who We Are

- ▶ **Manager of CaliforniaColleges.edu**, the State of California's official college and career planning platform
- ▶ A **legislatively-authorized** service provider to all California school districts ([California Education Code 60900.5](#))
- ▶ A crucial component of **California's Cradle-to-Career Data System**, as established by AB 132

## Who We Are Not

- ▶ A vendor
- ▶ A grant-funded program





# CCGI Partner Districts

**Partner Districts have a formal data-sharing agreement (MOU) with CCGI in order to bring their high school transcript data to CaliforniaColleges.edu**

- ▶ 81% of 9th-12th grade public school students in California are enrolled in one of CCGI's Partner Districts.
- ▶ Our Partners include more than **351 Districts** that enroll over **1.5 million** of California's **9th-12th grade students**.

▼ See who our Partner Districts are ▼

<http://californiacolleges.edu/learnmore/partner-districts/>





# Scaling CaliforniaColleges.edu

**Significant work has been done since 2021 to bring CaliforniaColleges.edu to all 6-12th grade public school students in California:**

- ▶ **Fall 2024:** A data-sharing agreement executed between CCGI and the California Department of Education (CDE) leverages Calpads data to bring **Basic Account** features of CaliforniaColleges.edu to all 6th-12th grade public school students.
- ▶ California Education Code 60900(f)(3) now requires that all LEAs that enroll 9-12 grade students enter into a data-sharing agreement with CCGI by **January 2026** in order to bring **transcript-informed accounts** to students.



# Student and Educator Tools

## Career



Career Assessments

Career Search & Favorite

College & Career Lessons

Life Planner & Journal

Student Activity Reports

## College



College & Major Search

CSU & UC Eligibility

Application Integrations

CMP Alignment Support

Eligibility Reports

Application Status Reports

## Financial Aid



Financial Aid Lessons

Application Integrations

Lesson Progress Reports

Application Status Reports



# Our Three Big Goals

CaliforniaColleges.edu is a 6th-12th grade college and career guidance platform and data infrastructure which can be used to close equity gaps.

## Systematize

Provide access to **high-quality college and career knowledge** development tools for all 6th-12th grade public school students

## Streamline

Create an **integrated college and financial aid application process** for California students and educators

## Provide Data

Supply the **actionable data** educators need to provide **targeted interventions** and **inform decisions** as they provide high-stakes college and career support



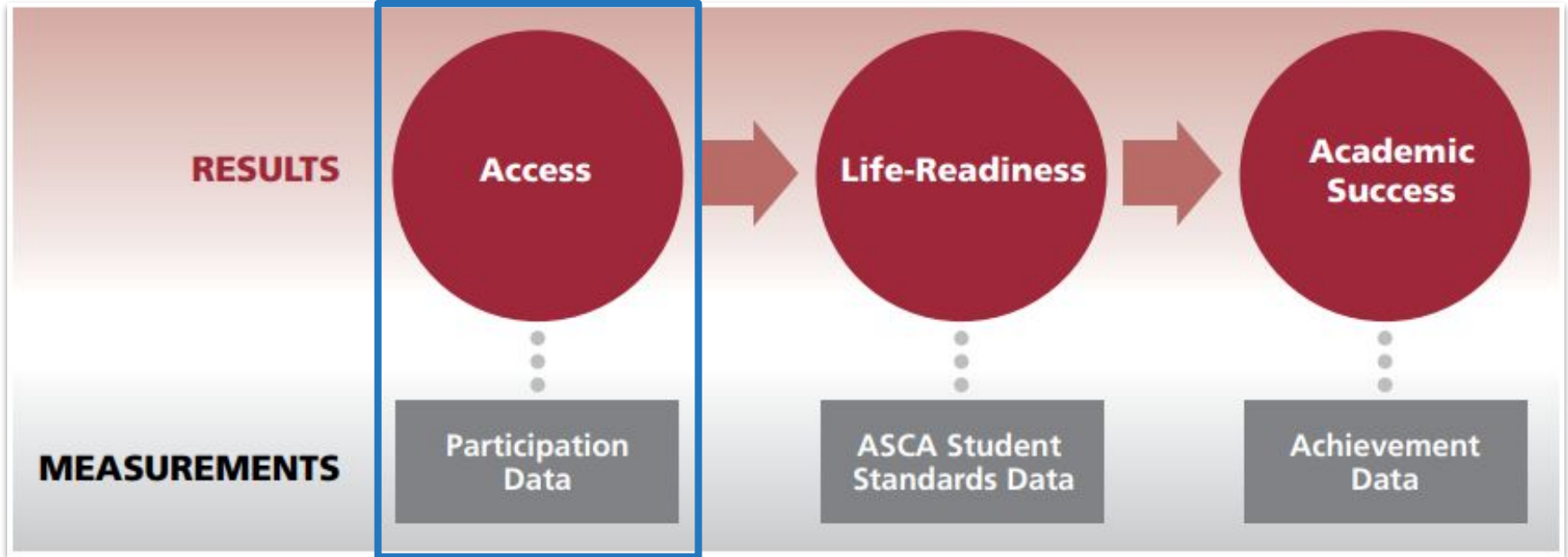
# ASCA Position Statement

## Postsecondary Preparation

- ▶ Ensure all students develop an **academic and career plan** that includes rigorous and relevant coursework and reflects their individual interests, abilities, short- and long-term goals, cultural beliefs, and other factors.
- ▶ Academic and college/career planning provides students with the opportunity to identify strengths, areas in need of improvement, and areas of interest early in their education. This allows students and their families to set **postsecondary goals and make informed choices that support achieving their desired goals.**



# ASCA Framework



**CaliforniaColleges.edu can help school counselors deliver direct student services to improve life-readiness and academic success for each and every student.**

- ▶ **Instruction:** Provide instruction to enhance student access, life-readiness, and academic success through classroom, small group, and individual interactions.
- ▶ **Appraisal and Advisement:** Analyze and assess students' abilities, interests, skills, and achievements through Career Assessments. Make recommendations based on assessment results to help students make decisions for their future.
- ▶ **Counseling:** Leverage tools to provide students with short-term assistance and support.





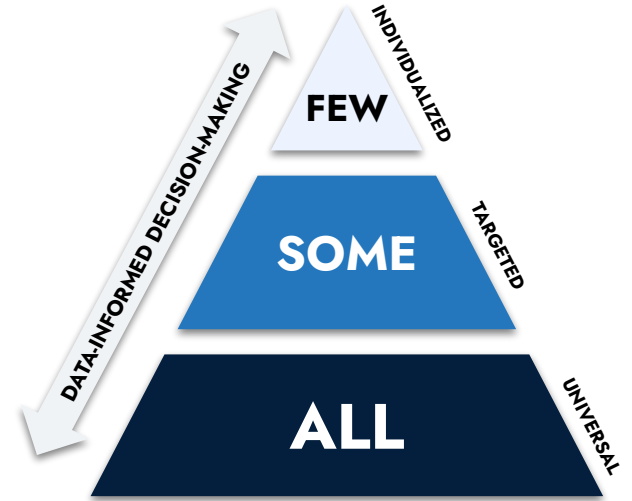
# Connection to the CASC Standards

## ELEMENT 4A: CA MTSS FRAMEWORK

Effective school counselors design and deliver programs and services aligned with the California MTSS framework.

## ELEMENT 4B: DATA INFORMED DECISION MAKING

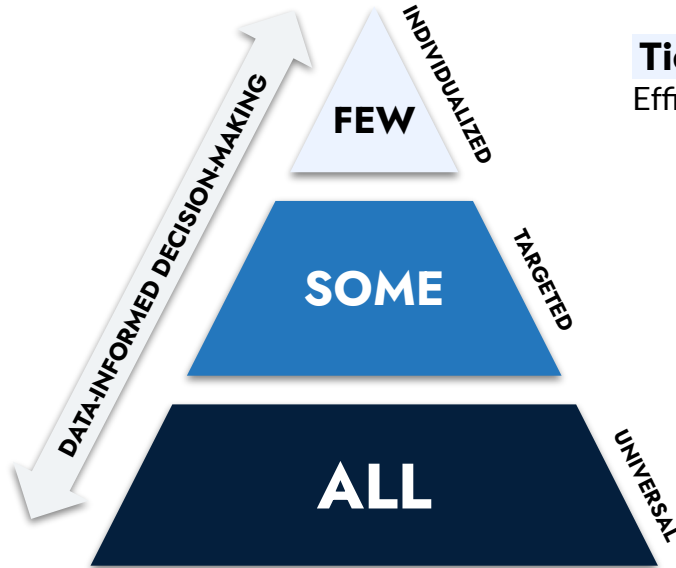
Effective school counselors utilize data to inform decision-making and drive improvements in student outcomes.





# Within a MTSS Framework

CaliforniaColleges.edu can be leveraged to support Tier-1 learning for all students, while increasing efficiency and ability for educators to strategically intervene with those who need support at Tier 2 and 3.



## Tier 3 - Intensive Interventions

Efficiencies at Tier 1 and 2, free time for educators to provide 1:1 support.

## Tier 2 - Targeted Interventions

Educator tools and reports on CaliforniaColleges.edu allow for targeted interventions with individuals or groups of students.

## Tier 1 - Universal Interventions

CaliforniaColleges.edu is the state's official college and career planning platform, designed for all 6th-12th grade students.

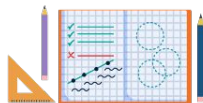


# One Place for College and Career



## TOOLS

Support your progress



### MAP OUT YOUR FUTURE

Tools to Plan, Set Goals, and Record Progress



### BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

College, Career, and Financial Aid Lessons



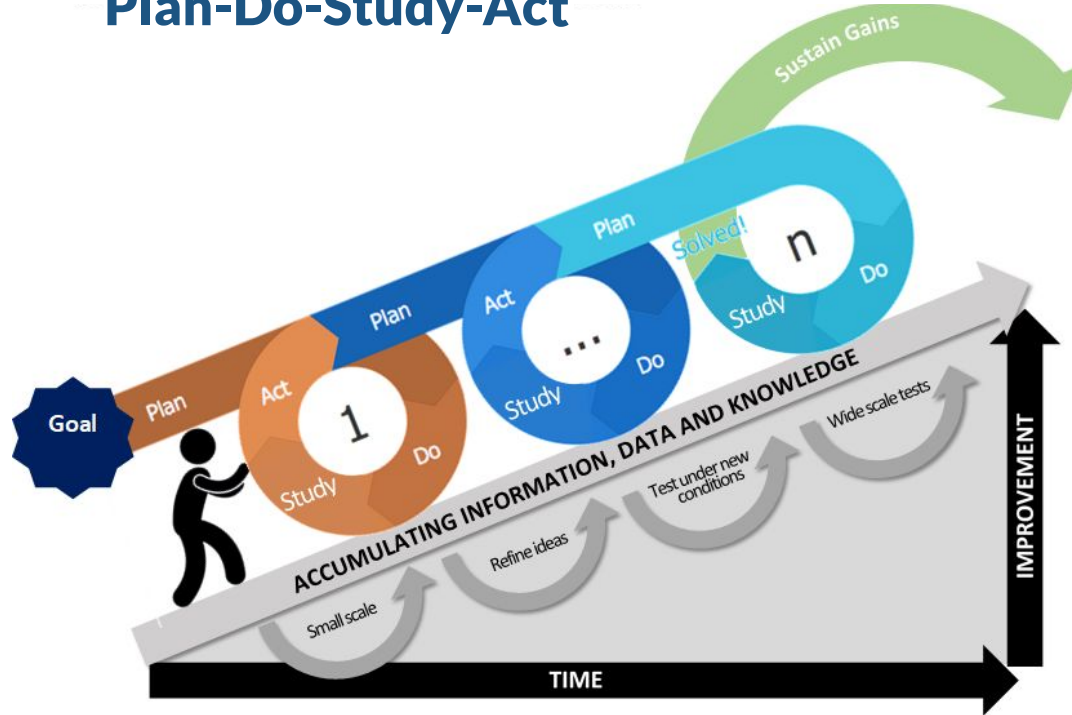
### INTENTIONAL EDUCATOR INTEGRATIONS

Reporting Tools to Inform Student Support



# Implementation Steps

## Plan-Do-Study-Act



# Tier 1: Developing Career, College and Financial Aid Knowledge for ALL students





# Clovis Unified School District



## Stephanie Frazier

District Lead Counselor

## Clovis Unified School District

**45,000** students (K-12)

**65** School Counselors (K-12)

- ▶ **2** Educational Centers (7-12)
- ▶ **3** High Schools (9-12)
- ▶ **3** Intermediate Schools (7-8)
- ▶ **35** Elementary Schools (K-6)
- ▶ Alternative Education (Independent Study, Continuation, Online and Adult School)



# Implementing California Colleges Through Professional Development and Collaboration

Official Launch: August 2024

## Professional Development

Over the past three years, CUSD Counselors have participated in six full days and two half days of professional learning each year.

## Train the Trainer

Counselors from each site received initial training and then took the lead to train the rest of their team.

## Collaboration Through Committee Work

Counselors from all sites serve on committees such as Tier 1 curriculum development and CaliforniaColleges.edu implementation.

**Benefits:** Consistent practices across sites, equitable student services, sharing of effective strategies, and development of counseling leaders — all supporting student success.

# Tier 1 Classroom Lessons

## Classroom Lessons

- ▶ Two lessons per grade level
- ▶ Lessons include CaliforniaColleges.edu components and ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors
- ▶ Shared Google Drive contains ASCA-aligned lesson plans, slide decks, lesson checklists, and sample email notifications.

# Comprehensive School Counseling Lesson Plans at a Glance

Grade	Recommended Time Frame	Title/Theme	Description	CCGI Component	Lessons and Ready-to-Use Tools	ASCA Student Standards	Family Engagement
9	Semester 2	Creating an Individual Learning Plan	Students are introduced to California Colleges and the ways in which it can help them in their postsecondary planning, including: self-discovery, academic planning, and career and college exploration.	Academic Planner (used for ILP)	PowerPoint Pre-Test   Post-Test ASCA Lesson Plan Counselor Lesson Plan/Checklist CUSD Course List for ILP Planning Graduation Rubric	M6	Tutorial Video (included in wrap email, post on socials)  Introduce CCGI with graphics on social media  Counseling Newsletter of Tier 1 services
10	Semester 1	Career Inventory and Exploration	Students will complete a career interest inventory to identify three careers that match their strengths and interests. They will learn key factors to consider when choosing a career, such as education requirements and job outlook, and reflect on how their personal values align with potential career paths. This self-exploration will help students build motivation and clarity for setting future academic and career goals.	CCGI Interest Profiler	PowerPoint Pre-Test   Post-Test ASCA Lesson Plan Counselor Lesson Plan/Checklist Sophomore Lesson #1 Worksheet (do this as a paper copy, or consider uploading to CCGI to have students fill out a journal entry or reflection)	M5, B-LS 4	CCGI Parent Account Tutorial Video (included in wrap email, post on socials)  Counseling Newsletter of Tier 1 services
10	Semester 2	Understanding Your Academic Success	Students will learn how to read and evaluate their transcripts to understand their academic status. Counselors will guide students in identifying if they are on track for graduation and A-G eligibility, while exploring future course options that align with their college and career goals. The lesson will empower students to take ownership of their academic journey and make informed decisions about their next steps.	Academic Planner CSU Eligibility Tab UC Eligibility Tab	PowerPoint Pre-Test   Post-Test ASCA Lesson Plan Counselor Lesson Plan/Checklist CUSD Course List for ILP Planning Graduation Rubric	B-LS 1 B-SMS 3	CCGI Parent Account Tutorial Video (included in wrap email, post on socials)  Counseling Newsletter of Tier 1 services
11	Semester 1	Postsecondary Pathways	Students will explore a variety of postsecondary pathways including college, military, apprenticeships, and vocational programs. They will use CaliforniaColleges.edu to research their interests and begin planning for life after high school. The lesson emphasized informed decision-making and aligning future goals with academic choices.	Career Interest Profiler Major Search Tool College Search Tool	PowerPoint Pre-Test   Post-Test ASCA Lesson Plan Counselor Lesson Plan/Checklist Junior Lesson #1 Worksheet	M 6	CCGI Parent Account Tutorial Video (included in wrap email, post on socials)  Counseling Newsletter of Tier 1 services

## Sample Lesson Plan

## CUSD Franchised and Branded

Lessons are data-driven, incorporate pre/post assessments to measure student learning, and align with the ASCA National Model to ensure consistency across all sites.



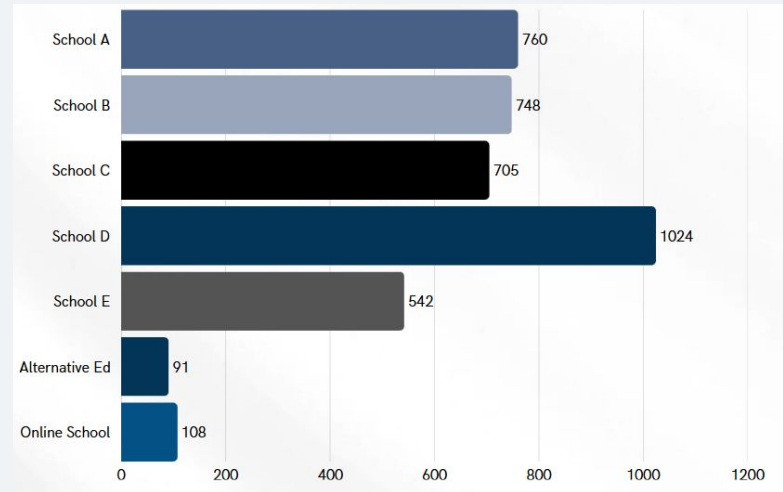
# Implementation: Year One

## # of Unique Students who Launched Applications from CaliforniaColleges.edu

<b>675</b>	UC	<b>780</b>	CSU
<b>2,999</b>	CCC	<b>806</b>	FAFSA/CADAA

School	Cal State Apply	CCC Apply	FAFSA /CDA	UC Apply	Grand Total
School A	145	625	60	128	958
School B	105	646	0	97	848
School C	162	577	459	99	1,297
School D	255	551	23	234	1,063
School Alt 1	0	61	0	0	61
School E	112	484	235	114	945
School Alt 2		12			12
School Alt 3		43	19		62
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>5,246</b>

## Interest Profiler Assessments Completed





# Addressing Challenges

## Site Autonomy

Previously, classroom presentations were site-based, varied in timing and content, and were often traditional presentations rather than engaging lessons.



## Curriculum Team

A team of counselors consolidated the best of site-developed lessons, integrating CCGI and aligning with ASCA to create consistent, data-driven lessons.

## Classroom Access

Some sites had limited access to classrooms for delivering lessons.



## Relationships

Counselors proactively reached out to teachers to explain the purpose of Tier 1 classroom counseling lessons, securing their buy-in to allow class time for delivery.

## Intermediate Sites

Having fewer counselors at intermediate sites make delivering classroom lessons more challenging and time-intensive.



## Thinking Outside of the Box

Intermediate counselors have collaborated with high school counselors, involved interns and at-risk counselors (Impact Team), and utilized recorded videos and teacher-led lessons to support delivery.



# Lessons Along the Way

## Remember the WHY

- ▶ Equitable access for all students
- ▶ Efficient communication of key information
- ▶ Use of data to show student learning outcomes
- ▶ Stronger relationships with students and teachers

Counselors report that increased classroom time helps them to get to know their students better, build relationships earlier, and has led to more students visiting the Counseling Center.

## Make it Easy to Say YES

- ▶ Quality lessons readily available
- ▶ Clever (single sign-on) ensures easy student access
- ▶ Immediate feedback from counselors supports continuous improvement and encourages data review to measure student learning

## Take Risks, Offer Grace, and Celebrate Wins

Sites are at different levels of implementation.

**Share with district leadership and celebrate at every opportunity!**



# Bonus: Alignment to ASCA

## Components for RAMP

- ▶ Align the School Counseling Program with the school and district **Vision and Mission**
- ▶ Use school data and student achievement trends to drive **School Counseling Data Priorities**
- ▶ Develop an **ASCA Student Standards Delivery Plan** to ensure students receive comprehensive support across academic, college and career, and social/emotional domains
- ▶ Create **lesson plans** aligned with **ASCA Student Standards** and use **Data Reports** to assess student outcomes
- ▶ Set **Achievement Gap Plan Goals** and measure impact through **Data Reports**

**One high school earned the RAMP designation this year and others now see this a possibility!**



# Next Steps

- ▶ Evaluate and improve lessons through ongoing data collection, feedback, and site response
- ▶ Use data to inform Tier 2 interventions and guide continuous committee work with Tier 2 focus
- ▶ Develop and expand lessons for grades 7-8
- ▶ Provide additional training on CaliforniaColleges.edu tools and implementation



*Take risks if it will benefit kids. Be supportive through failure. Learn from your mistakes.*

**Floyd B. Buchanan, Ed.D**



# Visalia Unified School District

## Krista Taylor

Coordinator, College and Career Readiness

### Clovis Unified School District

- ▶ Over **150,000** Population
- ▶ Over **32,000** students
- ▶ **71** School Counselors



- ▶ **4** Comprehensive High Schools
- ▶ **5** Middle Schools
- ▶ **27** Elementary Schools
- ▶ **2** Charter Schools
- ▶ **1** Alternative Education High School
- ▶ **1** Continuation High School
- ▶ **1** Adult School

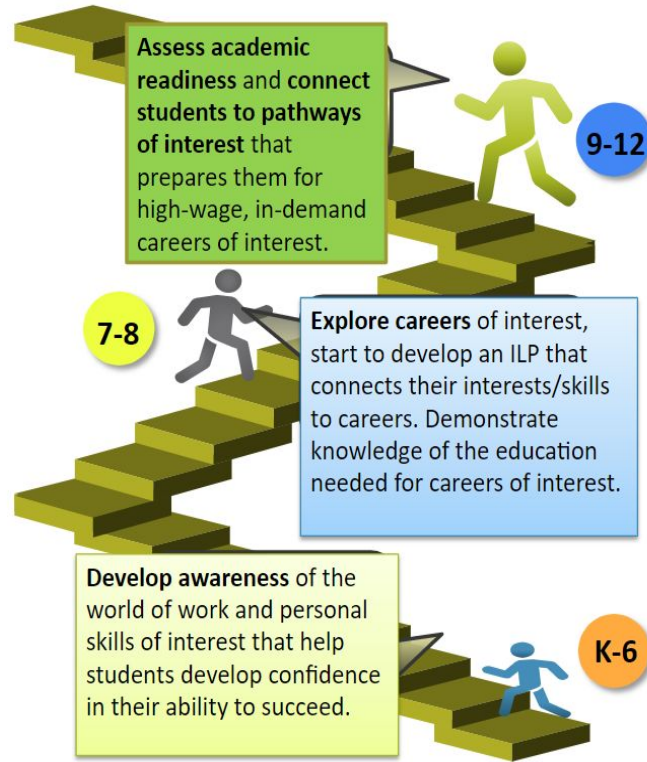
# Implementing Tier 1 College and Career Readiness: CaliforniaColleges.edu

<b>September</b>	<b>September:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly PLC: Counseling Lesson and Data Review (Mondays 8:00am-9:00am)</li> <li>• New Counselor Support (September 17th, 2:00-3:30 Location TBD)</li> <li>• Open Support Time (September 30, 2:00-3:30 Location TBD)</li> <li>• High School Counselor Meeting (September 25th 2:00-3:30 Location TBD)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Annual Calendar (one per school) Submit to School Site Counseling folder by the last week of September</b> <u>Indirect/direct counseling services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendar (Weekly Schedules, Classroom Sessions, Small Groups, Individual counseling, consultation etc)</li> <li>• Schedule of tier 1 classroom lessons is created in collaboration with staff, administrators and families</li> <li>• Calendar Tier 2 meetings</li> <li>• Calendar monthly meeting with site administration</li> <li>• Counseling dept. school wide activities (career/college week etc)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Create your counseling schedule (one per counselor) Submit to School Site Counseling Calendar folder by end of September</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure to include student interventions (based on Tier 2 meeting data)</li> <li>• Include weekly Tier 2 meetings</li> <li>• Share with site admin</li> </ul>	
	<b>Monthly Calendar for Community (Posted to your school website by the end of September)</b>	
	<b>Required College and Career Lessons</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9th Grade: <a href="#">High School 101</a></li> <li>• 10th Grade: <a href="#">Interest Profiler Survey</a></li> <li>• 12th Grade: <a href="#">CCGI Solidifying College List</a></li> </ul>	
	<b>Individual Learning Plan Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individual student meeting: Review transcript, graduation progress, A-G requirements, current grades/attendance, tutoring, resources, systems of higher learning and individual learning plan.</li> </ul>	
<b>Suggested School Wide Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Management</li> <li>• National Suicide Prevention Week</li> </ul>	<b>Suggested Tier 1 Lessons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Wednesday- <a href="#">UC Merced</a>, <a href="#">CSU East Bay</a>, <a href="#">Reedley Community College</a></li> <li>• National Suicide Prevention Lessons and Activities</li> <li>• Suite 360 Self Awareness and Self Management Lessons</li> <li>• <a href="#">Career Friday: Elementary School Teacher</a>. (Last Friday of the Month)</li> </ul>	



# Tier One Classroom Lessons Scope and Sequence

## K-12 College/Career Development System



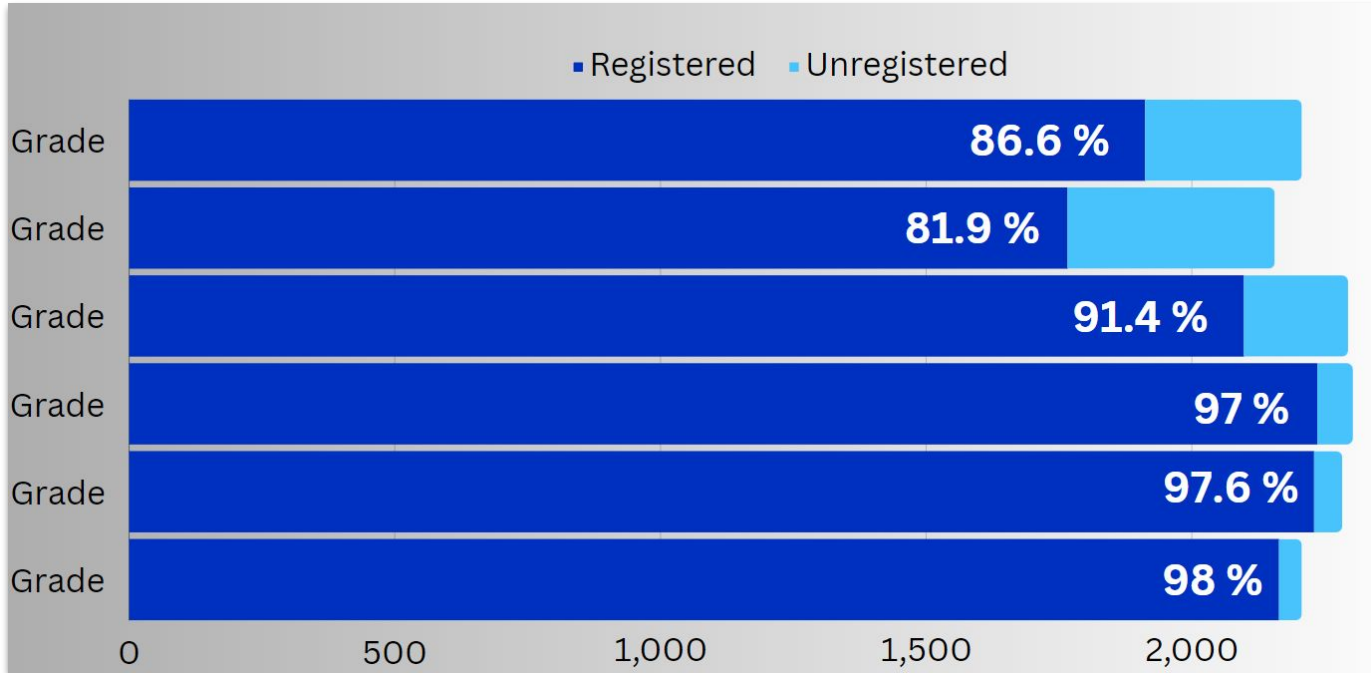


# Data Review Protocol

- ▶ **Step 1:** Review student registration data in CaliforniaColleges.edu
- ▶ **Step 2:** Identify lesson completion indicator with CaliforniaColleges.edu report
  - Example: 7th Grade Interest Profiler - % of students completing Interest Profiler
  - Example: 11th Grade Researching Post Secondary Options - % of students who ❤️ or favorited colleges and careers
- ▶ **Step 3:** Review data to determine our current reality and our action steps

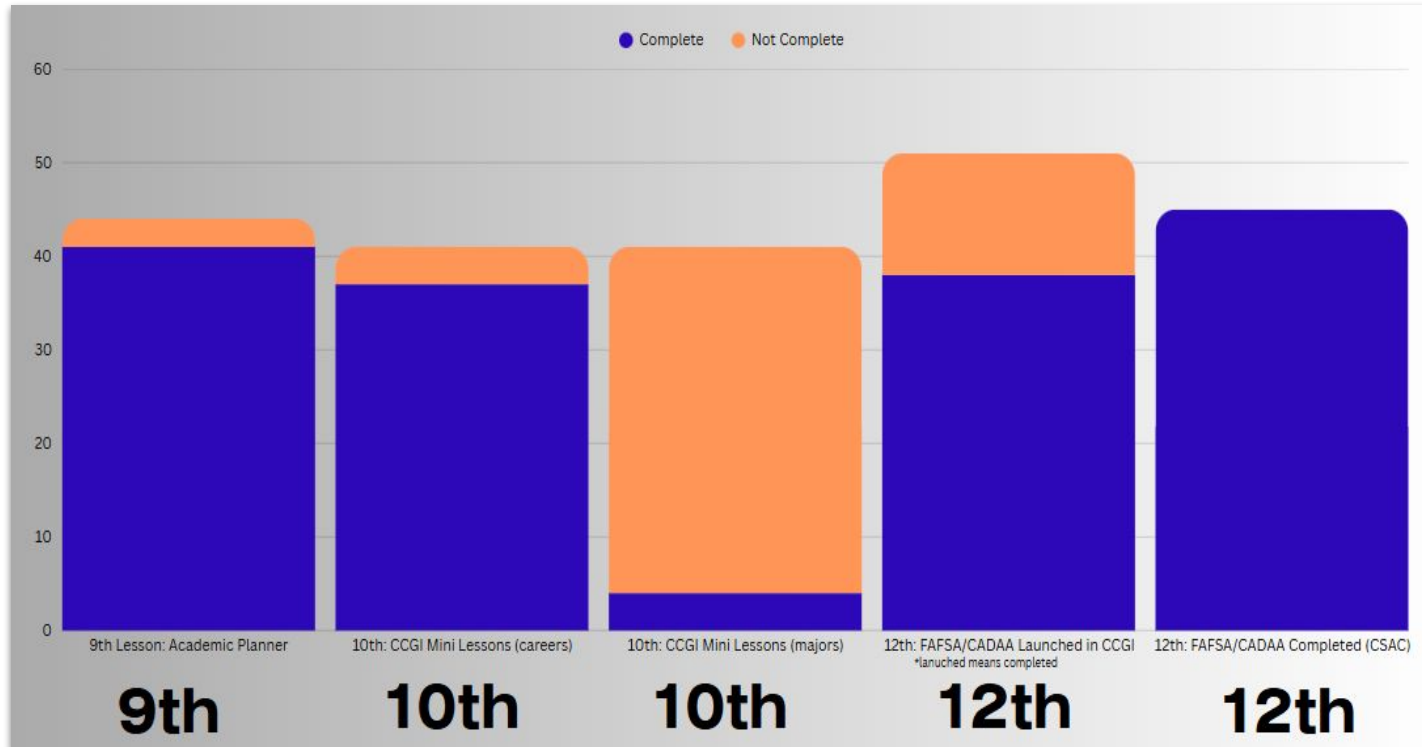


# Example Data Chart





# Example Data Chart





# CaliforniaColleges.edu Middle and High School Lesson Data Review

## Step One: Site Questions

1. What is your data telling you? What patterns are you seeing?
2. What grade has the highest completion rate?
3. What grade has the lowest completion rate?
4. What students are we missing?
5. What are our barriers?
6. What has worked well?

## Step Two: Site Collaboration Questions

1. What worked well at our site?
2. What are some of our barriers?
3. How did our site get past these barriers or what are some steps we can take to get past our barriers?

## Step Three: Site Action Plan

1. What is our plan to catch our missing students in each grade level (e.g. unregistered, those that missed the lesson)?
2. What steps are we going to take to ensure lessons are being completed?



# What Did We Learn?

1. Identified lessons we need to move from first semester to second semester
2. Identified areas of strength, such as the number of students registered and using CaliforniaColleges.edu
3. Allowed time for counselors to review their data and district data to collaborate and plan for second semester
4. Allowed us to think about how to include student Pre/Post Survey in future data dives



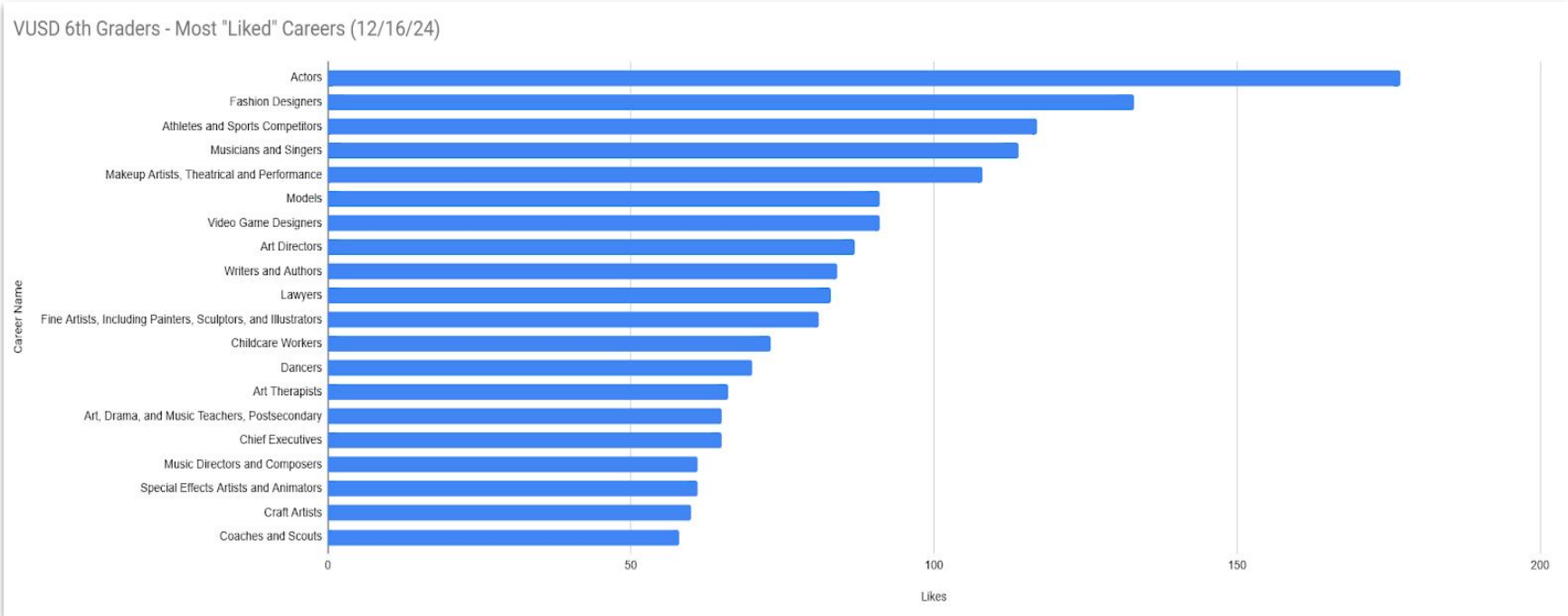


## Taking CaliforniaColleges.edu to Elementary School

- ▶ At the end of the 23-24 school year we reviewed data from our Individual Learning Plan and discovered we were missing topics that we wanted to cover with students.
- ▶ Through our Individual Learning Plan, we learned that students did not have an idea of their main career interests or goals at the start of their 9th grade year.
- ▶ With input from our counselors looking at this data we determined we wanted to move CaliforniaColleges.edu into the 6th grade year to allow students more time to start thinking about their interests and allowing us to use this data to restructure our current 6th grade visit to COS.



# Taking CaliforniaColleges.edu to Elementary School





# How Did We Use the Data at the District Level

- ▶ **College Visits** - We are using this data to match students with industry sectors that match individual career interests to tailor their visit.
- ▶ **CTE Collaboration** - Our CTE Department used this data to develop a CTE elective career exploration course. We used data for K-12 Strong Workforce Grant.
- ▶ **Revise Lesson** - We realised we needed to revise our 6th grade lesson to include a step that students can research their own careers.
- ▶ **Career Night** - We will use this data to inform how we plan our VUSD Career Night.



# Questions?



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# Implementation Phases

## How do I get started

### Plan

- ▶ Build foundational knowledge of [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://CaliforniaColleges.edu)
- ▶ Become familiar with educator reports and use them to monitor progress
- ▶ Test activities with small groups of students
- ▶ As a team, identify best practices that can be implemented as Tier 1
- ▶ Discuss challenges and possible solutions to try

### Do

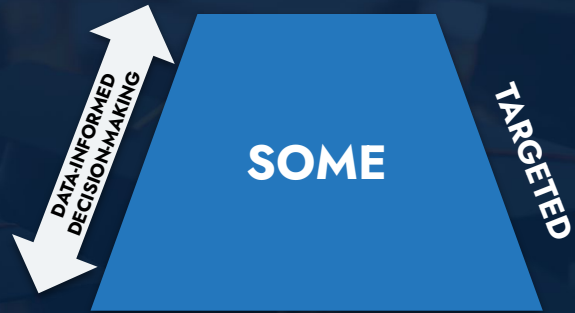
- ▶ Standardize Tier I activities as a district
- ▶ Identify educator reports to use
  - Set a goal
  - Monitor progress
- ▶ Analyze data at the end of each activity or the end of year.
  - Establish best practices
  - Revise, set new goals

## How can I do it better

### Refine/Enhance

- ▶ Review Tier I supports and revise as needed
- ▶ Identify Tier 2 groups and supports
  - Establish process for new groups
  - Progress monitor during activity windows
- ▶ Study implementation and data, continue to refine

## **Tier 2:** Educator Reports to Support Targeted Intervention



The **College and Career Reports** support educators in using data to plan and implement intentional college and career experiences for their students.



# Leverage Educator Reports

## Host Targeted Career Events:

Plan in-person or virtual career days, work based learning, field trips, and volunteer opportunities



## Prepare Intentional College Opportunities:

Plan campus visits, college fairs, college workshops, and family nights

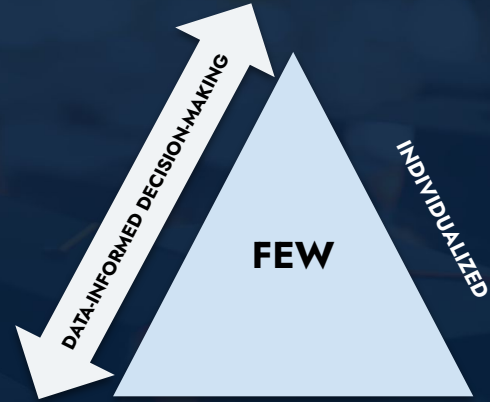


## Coordinate Activities Based on Top Majors:

Identify top majors and recruit college speakers to talk about different programs



**Tier 3:**  
**Individualized**  
**support where it's**  
**needed most**





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# Building Efficiencies

**When work at Tier 1 and Tier 2 is more efficient, School Counselors have more time to provide individualized interventions at Tier 3.**





# 1:1 Support

**CaliforniaColleges.edu tools can be leveraged within the individualized support that is provided to students who need it the most.**

## Examples:

- ▶ Utilizing the Career Assessments and Career Exploration Tools to help inform the Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) for a student with special education services
- ▶ Supporting an undocumented student to learn about their eligibility for the CADAA and the steps in the application process
- ▶ Leveraging the Accessibility Menu to ensure that a student who requires a screen reader or language translation is able to access the information about college, career, and financial aid options and eligibility
- ▶ Helping a Foster Youth to complete their CSU and/or UC application



# Resource Hub

## Statewide Webinars

Join us for **webinars** to learn about the tools and resources on CaliforniaColleges.edu



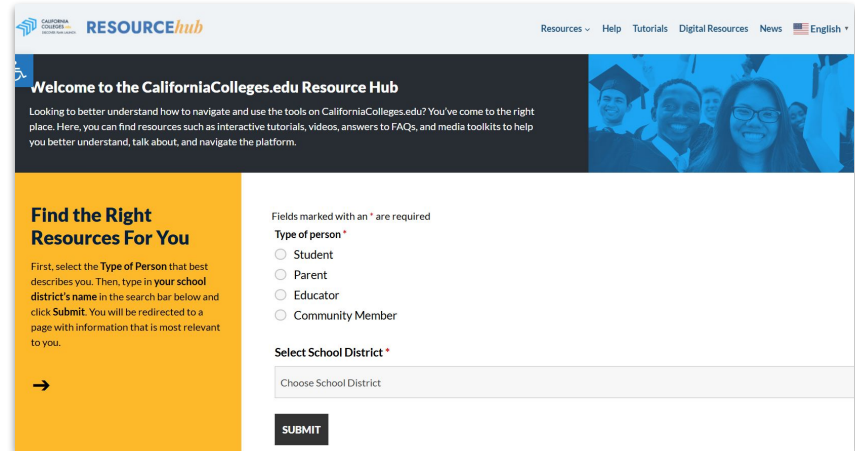
## Tutorials

Use **student and educator tutorials** to learn how to use CaliforniaColleges.edu tools



## Educator Guides

Explore **sample educator-led lessons and activities** for grades 6-12 that make use of the career, college, and financial aid tools on CaliforniaColleges.edu



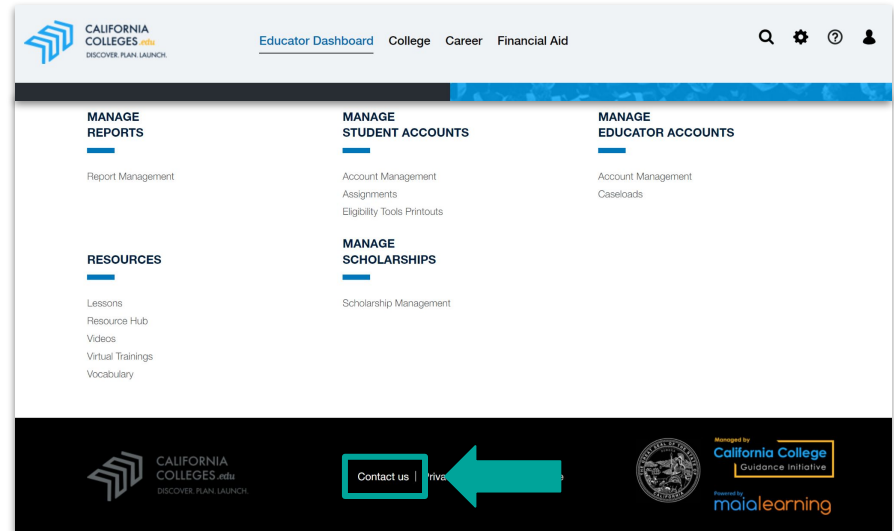
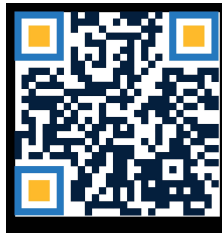
[www.californiacolleges.edu/resourcehub](http://www.californiacolleges.edu/resourcehub)



# Need Help? Contact Us

There are multiple ways to Contact Us when you have questions or need support:

- 1 Click the “Contact Us” link at the bottom of every page on the platform
- 2 Visit [californiacolleges.edu/#/contact-us](https://californiacolleges.edu/#/contact-us) or scan the QR code:



# Not Yet a Partner?

California districts/LEAs that serve 9th-12th grade students are required to enter into a data-sharing agreement with CCGI by January 2026 (per EDC § 60900).



To learn about bringing CaliforniaColleges.edu to your district, visit: [californiacolleges.edu/learnmore/partnership/](https://californiacolleges.edu/learnmore/partnership/)



Share your interest and enthusiasm about CaliforniaColleges.edu with your district leader and/or partnership decision-maker.



When your district is ready to explore partnership, [Contact Us](https://www.californiacolleges.edu/#/contact-us) at [www.californiacolleges.edu/#/contact-us](https://www.californiacolleges.edu/#/contact-us)



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# Session Evaluation

*Please remember to complete your session evaluation in the Conference App.*



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**Thank You!**