



The Future of California Depends on the Success of Our Students.

When California students succeed in college and career, we all succeed with them. They see greater lifetime earnings, create stronger futures for themselves and their families, and draw more and better jobs to their communities.

But the transition to postsecondary education is complex, particularly for those who would be the first in their family to attend college. Students often make major decisions about life after high school without fully understanding what educational options and resources are available, what degrees or certifications are required for their chosen careers, and what steps must be taken to attain them.

California's K-12 and public college systems are disconnected. Too many students see their academic and vocational dreams disappear in the gaps between them. A lack of statewide standards and consistent practices can lead students' transcript data to be misreported in their college and financial aid applications, delaying or denying admission and leading them to miss out on vital services and support.

The California College Guidance Initiative

The California College Guidance Initiative works to smooth the path to college for California students and unify the efforts of the institutions that serve them. Combining data-driven tools and infrastructure with student-focused curricula and capacity building, we help close the gaps between systems and ensure that all California students, especially those who have been underrepresented in higher education, can move seamlessly from K-12 to college and career.

Strategies

With an emphasis on systemic changes to shift student outcomes at scale, our work centers on three strategies:

- 1) Advocating for policy change.
 - Ensure **clearly-defined data standards** regarding courses and grades, so that we can automate eligibility and application processes.
 - Require 6th-12th grade students to complete a **high-quality college and career planning curriculum** prior to graduation through [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://www.californiacolleges.edu), the state's official college and career planning website.
- 2) Providing a data and guidance infrastructure.
 - Provide a **one-stop college and career planning platform** through CaliforniaColleges.edu.
 - Implement **integrations with California public college and financial aid applications**, allowing data to follow students and inform key decisions about admissions, placement, guidance, financial aid, and supportive services.
- 3) Helping educators move towards more data-driven guidance practices and more accurate data management.
 - Provide **technical assistance**, including text and video guides, training, user support, and troubleshooting.
 - **Build the capacity of K-12 districts** by offering the support needed to develop and distribute an implementation plan and by providing ongoing coaching on the use of data to drive district-wide improvement.

Launched in 2013 in a handful of school districts, we now support 131 districts that serve more than **850,000** California 6th-12th grade students.

That's larger than the entire K-12 systems of 28 U.S. states.

The California College Guidance Initiative at a Glance

Mission

Smooth the path to college for California students and unify the efforts of the institutions that serve them.

Goals

Provide all California 6th-12th grade students with the tools they need to:

- 1) identify their interests, skills, hopes, and passions.
- 2) understand what training and education is needed to enter professions that connect their strengths and interests to family-supporting jobs.
- 3) track their coursework against admissions and financial aid eligibility requirements.
- 4) navigate the process of applying to the full range of educational options after high school, as well as to financial aid programs that can help pay the associated costs.

Provide educators and educational systems with the data and tools they need to:

- 1) develop systematic approaches to guiding and supporting students as they plan for life after high school.
- 2) make the best possible decisions about admissions, placement, guidance, financial aid, and support services.
- 3) collaborate effectively with partner institutions to smooth transitions for students.

By the Numbers

CA 6th-12th grade students with access to transcript-informed CaliforniaColleges.edu accounts: **1 in 5**

Partner districts: **131**

Educators with accounts on CaliforniaColleges.edu: **4,630**

Application & transcript pushes (10/1/21-4/18/22):

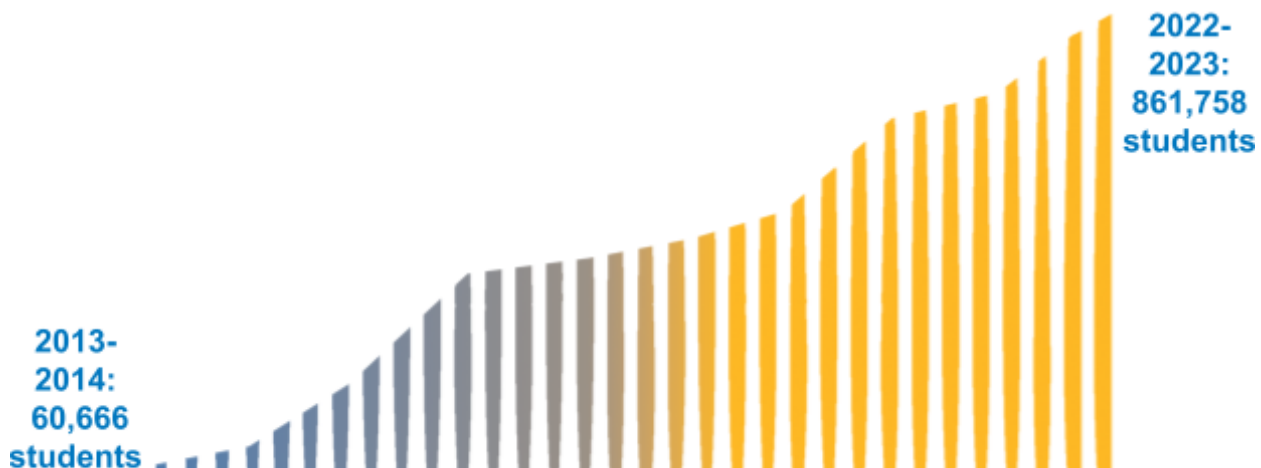
CCC Apply: **136,897**

Cal State Apply: **122,441**

University of California Application: **25,087**

FAFSA & California Dream Act Applications: **15,807**

Higher education partners: **CCC, CSU, UC¹, CSAC**



Partner District Enrollment (Grades 6-12)

To learn more about our work and how you can join us in realizing the college and career dreams of California students, email techassistance@CaliforniaColleges.edu or visit CAcollegeguidance.org

¹ UC does not currently leverage transcript data on California Colleges.edu to streamline the admissions process for students, but it has completed a first-phase integration that helps students and educators track applications.