The Value of the Cradle-to-Career Data System for Californians

California College Guidance Initiative

Scale CaliforniaColleges.edu statewide to smooth the transition from high school to college Web-based tools for students, families, and educators		
Value for Californians	**Current State**	**Future State**
Clarify and streamline the college application process for students and California public colleges	For students, college and financial aid applications are confusing and difficult to navigate Student-entered data is often inaccurate, causing delays and inefficiencies in the admissions and placement processes	For students, a one-stop-shop makes it easy to select and apply to public colleges in California, including pre-population of applications with verified transcript data For California public colleges, pre-verified course data streamlines admissions processing, informs first-year academic placement, and student advising
Improve financial aid knowledge and access	Information on financial aid options is confusing, and aid is hard to apply for	One-stop shop for all financial aid options and how to apply presented in student-friendly language
Help educators monitor college and financial aid applications in real-time	High school educators can't consistently track the status of their student's college and financial aid applications to provide hands-on support	High school educators can monitor all seniors' applications to California public colleges and for financial aid so they can intervene and support as needed
Reduce admission rejections due to poor data quality	Inconsistent coursework data definitions between systems mean student credits don't always qualify, resulting in unexpected admission rejections	Data clean-up support monitors and vastly reduces the number of students whose "a-g" courses are not properly recognized by admissions staff, leading to more accurate guidance while in high school and fewer painful and unexpected rejections
Improve reporting from state-funded programs	State-funded programs college readiness and outreach programs rely on inconsistent and self-reported data	All programs can leverage the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform to ensure completion of college and career knowledge curriculum and track key activities like college and financial aid applications, creating consistency and efficiencies in reporting