

Leveraging CaliforniaColleges.edu to Advance Equity Work

Ed Trust West Equity Forum

September 24, 2024



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The State of California's Official
College and Career Planning Platform



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DISCOVER. PLAN. LAUNCH.

California College Guidance Initiative

Who We Are

- ▶ **Manager of CaliforniaColleges.edu**, the State of California's free and 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 or a grant-funded program.

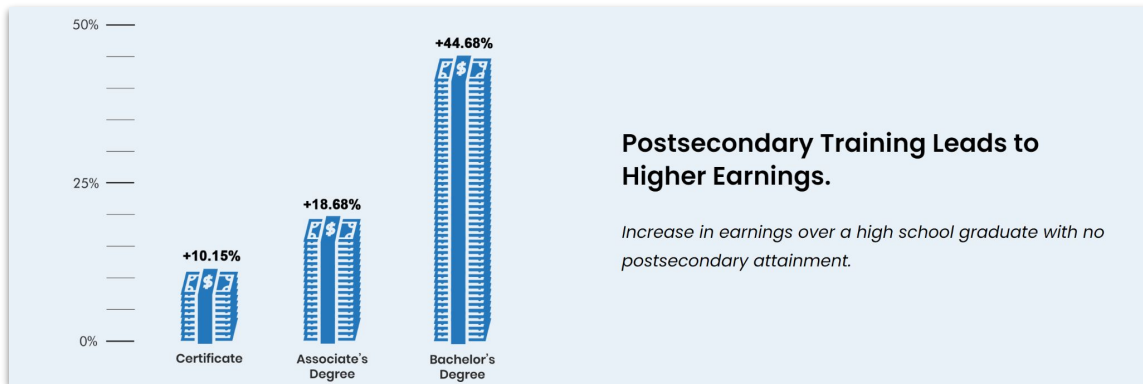




Differential Access & Outcomes

While we know that post-secondary education results in higher lifetime earning, we also know that:

- ▶ Students from higher-income backgrounds are more than twice as likely to earn a bachelor's degree than their lower-income peers.
- ▶ The vast majority of low-income Latinx and African-American students never attend a 4-year college.





Reflection

What can be done to disrupt to persistent disparities in postsecondary enrollment among low-income, students of color?





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 by:

1. **Systematizing college and career knowledge development** and access to high quality information for all 6-12th public school students.
2. **Streamlining the college and financial aid application process** for students and the educators supporting them.
3. **Providing educators with the data they need to:**
 - a. Monitor student progress and provide targeted interventions to move the needle on college and career readiness, eligibility, application and enrollment rates.
 - b. Inform high stakes decisions about admissions, placement, advising, financial aid, and supportive services as students transition to college.



Ed Trust West – The Equity 8

Each year, the Ed Trust-West analyzes proposals for the state budget and new legislation and identifies the top eight opportunities to advance educational equity and justice:

- ▶ In 2024, the Equity 8 included proposed investments in the California College Guidance Initiative to extend access to all 6-12th grade public school students in California.



Budget Proposal (Governor Newsom): \$5 Million for the California College Guidance Initiative

College admission and financial aid requirements are complex, and applying for either can be intimidating. The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) helps students and families by providing data-driven tools and infrastructure with student-focused curricula to help students move seamlessly from high school to college and/or a career. An increase of \$5 million in ongoing funding will extend access to this platform to all 6th-12th grade students in California. This investment will help students and families understand their options, research job markets, submit college applications, and apply for financial aid. This platform will also give high school counselors access to information they need to provide students with one-on-one support in their college application process. This funding will be a big boost to college and career readiness.

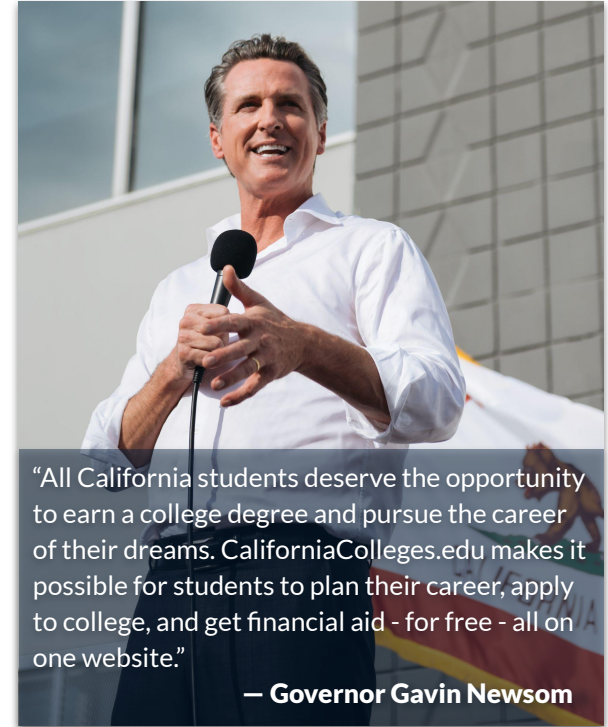
UPDATE: This is a win! The governor and the legislature approved an increase of \$2 million for the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) in the final 2024-2025 state budget. This is enough to accomplish the needed expansion of the CCGI.



Why has California Invested in a Common Platform?

Key Facts:

- ▶ **80%** of K-12 students in California **stay in-state** for training and education after high school.
- ▶ **56%** of high school seniors **did not meet A-G** requirements for CSU or UC admission in 2023.
- ▶ Students have to navigate **California-specific processes** and therefore need **California-centric tools and resources**.
- ▶ **Districts** likewise need **tools to support implementation** of policies and investments aimed at **increasing student success**.





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We Connect California Systems

CA Public School Districts/LEAs



CA Student Aid Commission
(CSAC)



CA Higher Ed Institutions



California
Community
Colleges

CSU The California State University

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



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Unique Tools for California

CaliforniaColleges.edu features integrations with all three of California's public higher education systems (CCC, CSU, UC) and the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).



COLLEGE

CAL STATE APPLY

CCCApply

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

FINANCIAL
AID

FAFSA®
Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

California
DreamAct





Our Role in the Cradle-to-Career Data System

CaliforniaColleges.edu is a crucial component of the C2C Data System tools

In 2021, the enactment of AB 132 outlined specific steps in order to implement the Cradle-to-Career (C2C) Data System and realize its objectives, including:

- ▶ Making CaliforniaColleges.edu tools and services **free to all California school districts serving 6-12th grade students**, with a goal of full participation by 2026.
- ▶ Designating CaliforniaColleges.edu as the **preferred starting point for all applications to California public colleges (CCC, CSU, UC), FAFSA, and CADAA.**

[Visit the Cradle-to-Career Website](#)





Scaling CCGI

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 at least the **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.



Basic Accounts

Students with Basic Accounts are able to use many of the tools on CaliforniaColleges.edu:

- ▶ Students with Basic accounts have access to:
 - Career Assessments & Exploration
 - College & Major Search tools
 - Financial Aid Lessons
 - Ability to launch applications to California's systems
- ▶ Students with Basic accounts cannot:
 - View their progress towards meeting CSU or UC eligibility requirements
 - Import verified course data into their applications.





Statutory Requirements

Under Ed Code Section 60900.5, the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) is charged with:

1. Developing college, career and financial aid lessons and tools, that facilitate college and career planning for students in Grades 6-12, families and the educators serving them.
2. **Ensuring all 9th-12th grade students have transcript-informed accounts on CaliforniaColleges.edu.**
3. Pre-populating applications to the CCC, CSU and UC systems with students' SSID, course and grade information.
4. Providing final transcripts to the public higher education systems and transcript level data to CSAC.



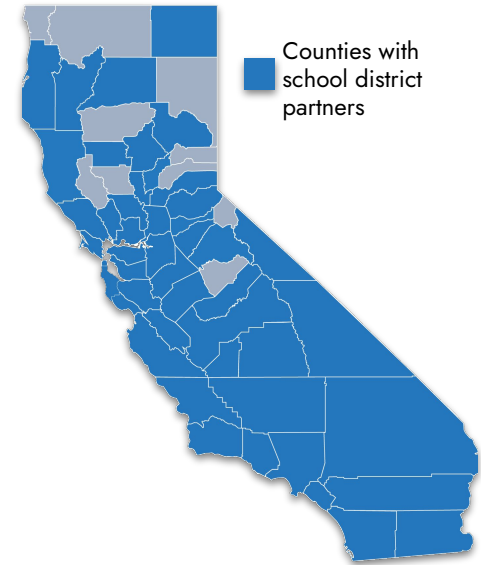
Transcript-Informed Accounts

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

- ▶ More than **70% of California's high school students** are enrolled in a school district that has already partnered with CCGI.
- ▶ Our Partner Districts include more than **265 school districts** that serve more than **1.3 million 9th-12th grade students** in California.

▼ **See who our Partner Districts are** ▼

californiacolleges.edu/learnmore/list-of-partner-districts/





Partner Districts

Partnership with CCGI allows for full access to the tools of CaliforniaColleges.edu.

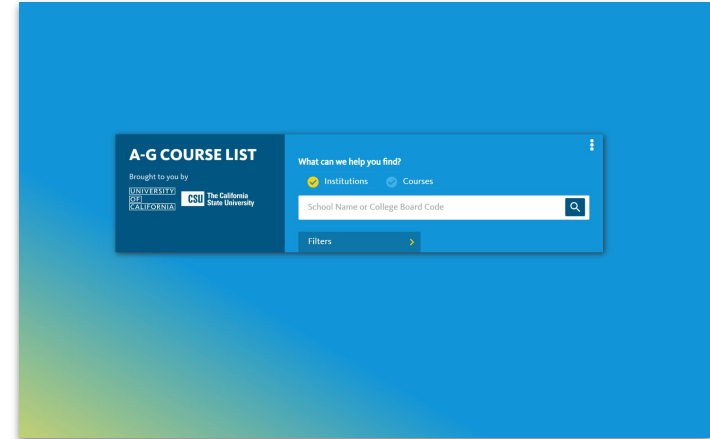
- ▶ **Transcript-Informed Accounts for students**, which include:
 - **California Community Colleges (CCC) Tool** which helps students to identify the 5 CCCs closest to their high school and to learn more about program options.
 - **CSU and UC Eligibility Tools** that allow students to see their progress towards meeting the minimum requirements for admission to a CSU and UC.
 - The ability to **import verified transcript data** to their Cal State Apply application and UC Application.
- ▶ **Enhanced Educator Reporting** to support ongoing progress monitoring and intervention.
- ▶ **A-G Alignment Support** for districts to ensure that students get correct A-G credit for high school courses and grades in their college applications.



A-G Alignment Support

The Course Management Portal (CMP) is where all California districts and/or their schools manage their public-facing “A-G Course List”

- ▶ The approved course list from the CMP is what determines which courses fulfill an A-G subject area for the purpose of CSU and UC admissions processes.
- ▶ CaliforniaColleges.edu uses the official CMP course list for each school to **verify the transcript data** shared by the district/LEA from its Student Information System (SIS).
- ▶ When course information contained in the CMP does not match how course records are recorded in a district's SIS and on student's transcripts, it may impact CSU and UC admissions eligibility.





Technical Assistance

CCGI provides technical assistance help to LEAs to ensure that courses indicated as fulfilling A-G requirements match the Course Management Portal.

- ▶ California Education Code 60900(g) requires that LEAs maintain at least a 90% rate of alignment between A-G coursework, as listed in the local SIS, and how those courses are registered in the UC Course Management Portal A-G course list.
- ▶ CCGI has a dedicated Technical Assistance team to support districts in improving their CMP match rate.
- ▶ CaliforniaColleges.edu reporting features help educators in partner districts to identify and resolve issues with their CMP list that may impact eligibility for students:
 - Academic Report: **Which district courses are flagged as A-G but do not match against the CMP?**

The Tools of CaliforniaColleges.edu



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The State of California's Official
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The Tools on CaliforniaColleges.edu

The State of California's free and official college and career planning platform

We provide students with:



Career Exploration

College and Major Search

CSU and UC Eligibility Tools

Financial Aid Lessons

College and Financial Aid
Application Integrations

We provide educators with:



Data Alignment Support

A-G Progress Monitoring

College and Financial Aid
Application Tracking

Reporting Tools
to Support Timely and
Intentional Intervention



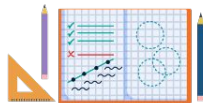
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One Place for College and Career



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

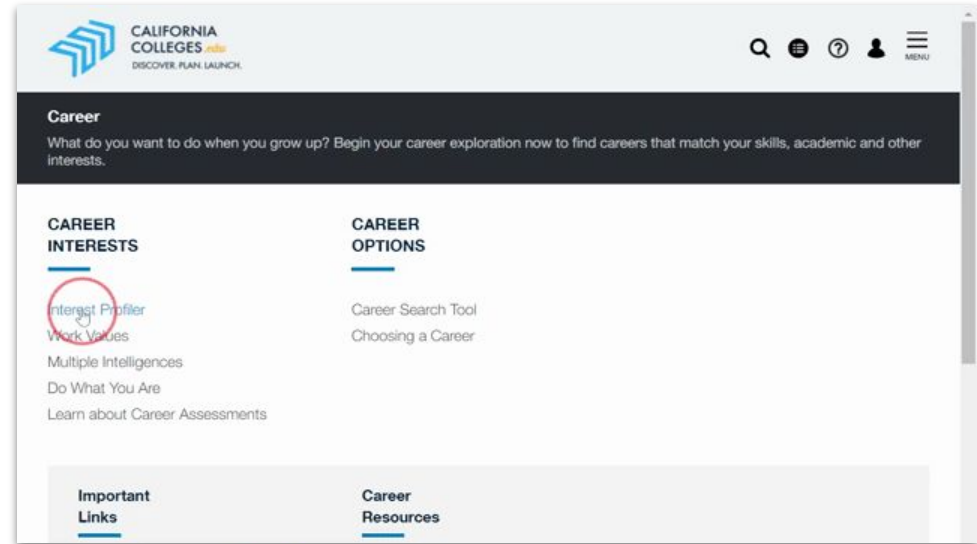


Career Assessments

Our Career Assessments can help students identify their values, interests, learning styles, and personalities and learn how they can connect to fulfilling careers.

Our assessments include:

- ▶ Interest Profiler (All Students)
- ▶ Learning & Productivity (Middle School Students)
- ▶ Intelligences (High School Students)
- ▶ Personality (High School Students)
- ▶ Skills (High School Students)
- ▶ Work Values Survey (High School Students)





Career Exploration

Our Career Search Tool helps students find the right career path by figuring out what they want to be and what it will take for them to get there.

CaliforniaColleges.edu allows students to:

- ▶ Explore careers that match their interests.
- ▶ See what kind of pay and growth potential jobs offer.
- ▶ Tie career assessment results to career pathways, majors, and colleges.
- ▶ Understand what education and skills they will need to pursue their career of choice.

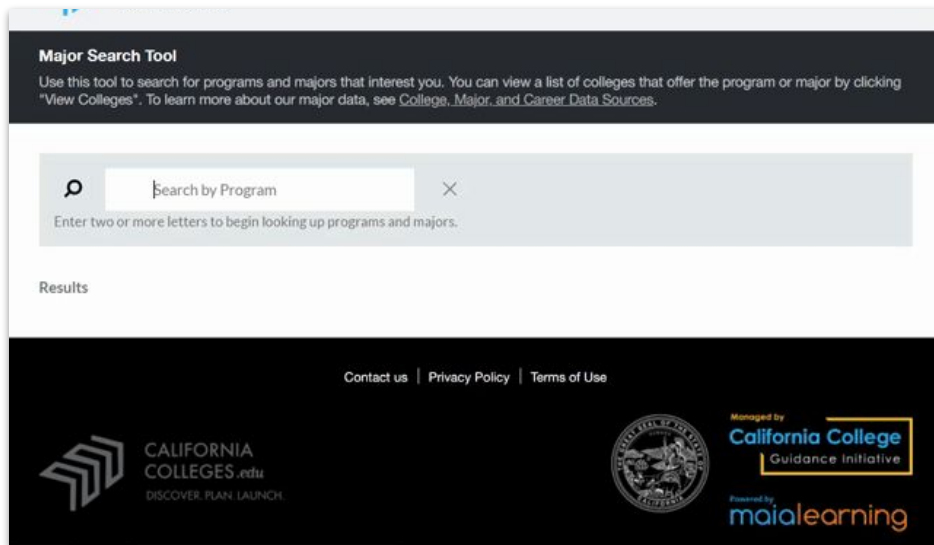
The screenshot shows the 'Career Search Tool' interface. At the top, a dark header contains the title 'Career Search Tool' and a brief description: 'Explore careers that match your interests. Find careers by using the keyword search or the Industry and Bright Outlook filters. To learn more about our career data, see [College, Major, and Career Data Sources](#).' Below the header, there are three search sections. The first section has a text input field with 'Scientist' and a blue 'Search' button. The second section has a dropdown menu labeled 'Select Industry' and a blue 'Search' button. The third section has a dropdown menu labeled 'Select Bright Outlook Occupation' and a blue 'Search' button. At the bottom left, it says 'Results 179' with a scroll bar. At the bottom right, there is a dark 'Compare' button. A small 'Compare' button with an information icon is also visible at the bottom left of the results area.

College and Major Search Tools

Our College and Major Search Tools allow students to find what majors will help them achieve their career goals and what colleges best meet their needs.

Our **Major Search Tool** allows students to discover programs and majors that interest them, learn more about what they involve, and find colleges that offer them.


Our **College Search Tool** helps students find the best colleges in California and across the country, based on the factors that matter most to them.



The screenshot shows the 'Major Search Tool' interface. At the top, it says 'Major Search Tool' and provides instructions: 'Use this tool to search for programs and majors that interest you. You can view a list of colleges that offer the program or major by clicking "View Colleges". To learn more about our major data, see [College, Major, and Career Data Sources](#).' Below this is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon on the left and an 'X' icon on the right. The text inside the search bar is 'Search by Program'. Below the search bar, it says 'Enter two or more letters to begin looking up programs and majors.' Below the search bar is a 'Results' section. At the bottom of the interface, there are links for 'Contact us', 'Privacy Policy', and 'Terms of Use'. The footer includes the California Colleges.edu logo, the California State Seal, and logos for 'Managed by California College Guidance Initiative' and 'Powered by maialearning'.

California Community Colleges

Students in Partner Districts see a list of the 5 CCCs closest to their school, with easy links to learn more about each campus and transfer options.

[Academic Planner](#) **CCCs** [CSU Eligibility](#) [UC Eligibility](#) [CSU Application Info](#) [UC Application Info](#) 

There are lots of great reasons to attend a California Community College (CCC). A CCC may be the best fit for you if:

- You need an **associate degree or certificate** for the career you want.
- You want to **start your career sooner**. Associate degree programs usually take two years. Certificate programs take even less time.
- You want to **prepare to transfer** to a four-year college.
- You want to **spend less money** on college tuition. CCCs have the lowest fees in the nation.
- You want to **stay close to home**. With 115 campuses across California, there is probably a CCC close to you.
- You need **flexible classes** in the evening, on weekends, or online so you can fit college into your life.
- You want to **get a head start on earning college credit** while you're still in high school.

Requirements

To attend a CCC, all you have to do is fill out an application and pay any required fees. You don't have to complete A-G requirements or take any special classes.

Learn more about the [Benefits of California Community Colleges](#).

Transfer Options

You can start at a CCC and transfer to a CSU, UC, or independent college after two years. Complete one of the programs below at your CCC to secure your spot.

- The [Associate Degree for Transfer \(ADT\)](#) guarantees you a spot at a CSU or an independent college.
- The [Transfer Admission Guarantee \(TAG\)](#) program guarantees you a spot at one of six UCs.

Learn more about [Transferring Schools](#).

Five Closest CCCs to Your School

Laney College	1.5 miles
College of Alameda	2.83 miles
Merritt College	3.95 miles
Berkeley City College	4.86 miles
Contra Costa College	12.65 miles

[View All CCCs](#)

How to Apply

Nearly all CCCs use CCCApply for online applications. When you're ready, learn how to [launch CCCApply from your CaliforniaColleges.edu account](#).

[Launch CCCApply Now](#)



CSU and UC Eligibility Tools for Students

Students in Partner Districts can use CSU and UC Eligibility Tools to continuously progress monitor their GPA and “a-g” eligibility.

The screenshot displays the California Colleges.edu Educator Dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and the text "CALIFORNIA COLLEGES.edu DISCOVER. PLAN. LAUNCH." followed by links for "Educator Dashboard", "College", "Career", and "Financial Aid". A search icon, a help icon, and a user profile icon are also present. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "Academic Plan: CCC Demo" with a sub-header "Keep track of your completed classes, grades earned, and also plan for high school classes using your Academic Plan." A blue banner with a pattern of white circles is visible. Below the banner, there is a row of tabs: "Academic Planner" (selected), "My College Plan", "My Career Plan", "My Financial Aid Plan", "My Goals", "My Journal", "My Experiences", and "My Documents". Below the tabs, there is a paragraph explaining that CSU uses three factors to determine eligibility: graduation from high school, completion of "a-g" courses, and grades achieved in a-g courses and test scores on college entrance exams. Below the paragraph, there is a row of tabs: "Academic Planner", "California Community Colleges", "CSU Eligibility" (selected), "UC Eligibility", and "CSU Application Info". A "Back to Academic Planner" link with a back arrow icon is also present. Below the tabs, there are two main sections. The first section is titled "CSU GPA" and features a large green circle with the number "3.35". The text below the circle states: "You are currently meeting the minimum GPA requirement of 2.0 or above. Your CSU GPA reflects 'a-g' coursework submitted by your school district completed in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, including the summers following 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. Courses that have UC Honors Approved under the title". The second section is titled "Your 'a-g' Progress for CSU" and features a red target icon. The text below the icon states: "Based upon successful completion of coursework this term, for your grade level, you are missing the following number of years of 'a-g' courses: 1. You appear to not be making progress toward completing courses recommended for your grade level in the following subject areas: B, D, E, F".

Demonstration



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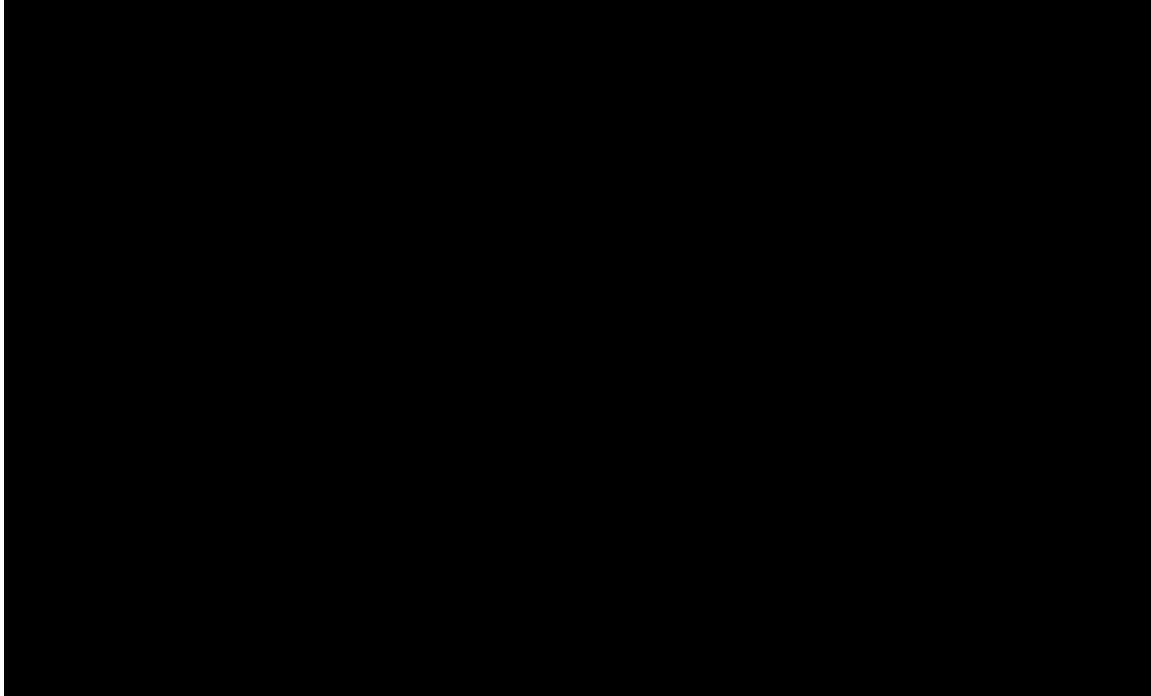


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The Financial Aid Tools



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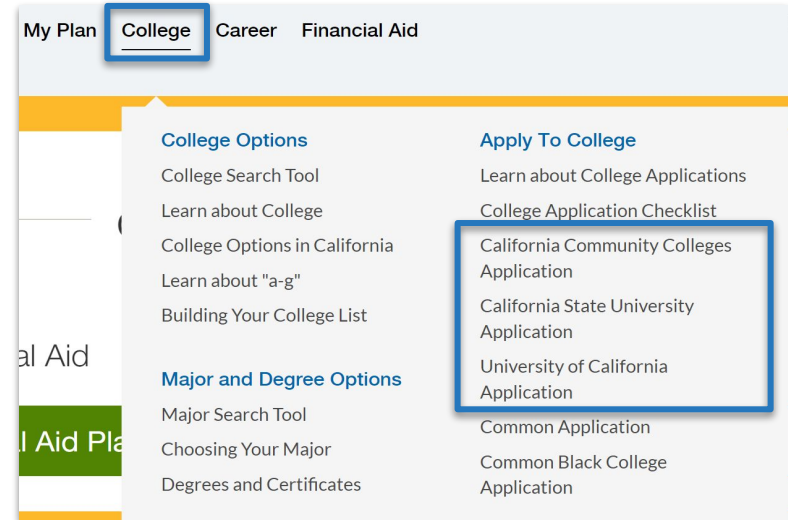


Launching Applications

Students can launch applications to California's financial aid and public higher education systems –

- ▶ 116 California Community Colleges
- ▶ 23 California State University campuses
- ▶ 9 University of California campuses
- ▶ FAFSA or CADAA

...all in one place.





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Why Launch from CaliforniaColleges.edu?



CAL STATE APPLY



Start from a Trusted Source:

Minimize students' guesswork and exposure to unofficial websites



Connect Data:

SSID linking helps facilitate identity matching between systems to smooth the process for students



Stay Informed:

Track the status of student applications and submissions



Save Time and Minimize A-G Errors:

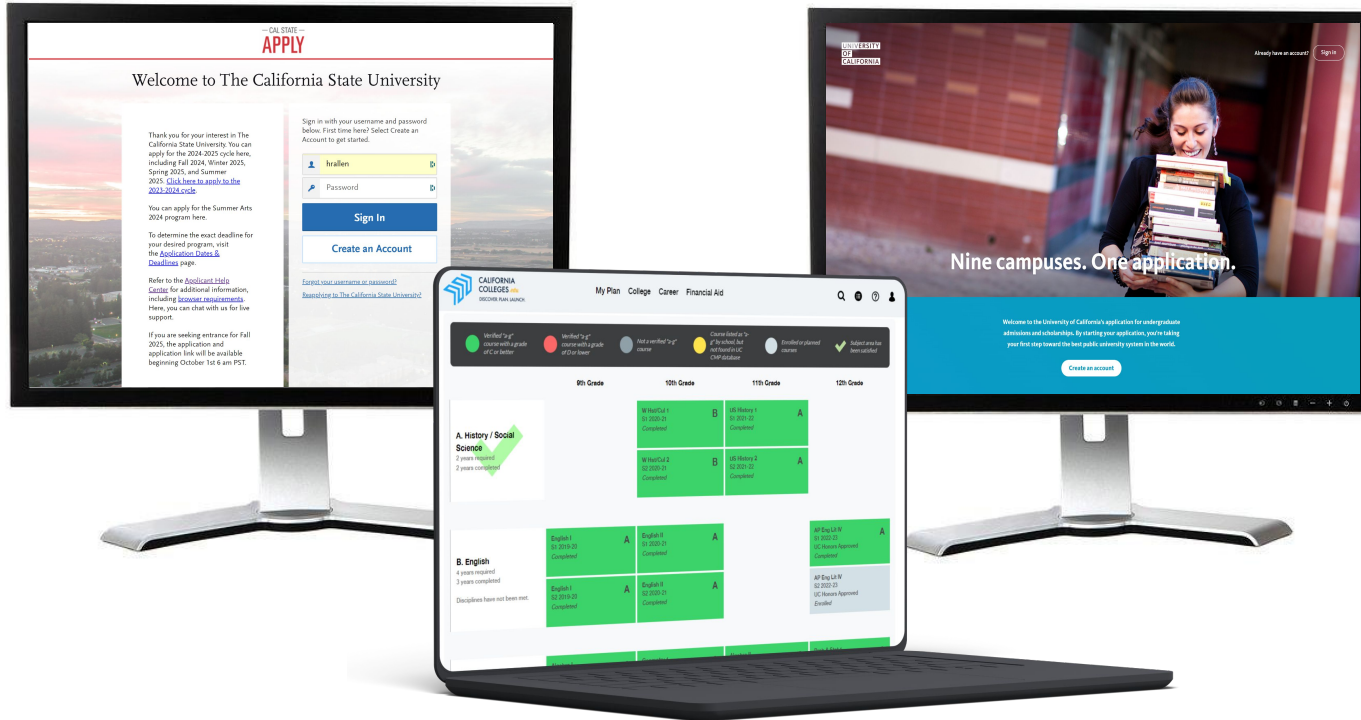
Import transcript courses and grades directly into students' applications





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Importing Verified Transcript Data





Data-Informed Decision Making

District educators can view application statuses to all CCC, CSU and/or UC campuses – updated nightly - and Financial Aid application status

- ▶ The **“Download Only: College Eligibility and Application Statuses”** report offers a single, downloadable file to help educators identify students for intervention and/or opportunities:

The screenshot shows a dark-themed interface for selecting a report. At the top, there are two dropdown menus: 'Select Report:' with 'Applications' selected, and 'Download Only: Current College Eligibility and Application Statuses' selected. To the right of these is a link 'Have a report question? Contact Us' with a question mark icon. Below the dropdowns is a 'Select Filters:' dropdown showing '12'. A blue 'Run Report' button is located on the right side of the interface, with a large green arrow pointing towards it from the right.

- ▶ Filter this report in multiple ways to answer questions, such as:
 - Which students have an eligible CSU or UC GPA, but have not applied?
 - Which students have applications in progress, but not yet submitted?
 - Which students have not applied to any segment?
 - Which students have applied to a specific campus?
 - Which students have not completed FAFSA or CADAA?



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A Student & Educator View



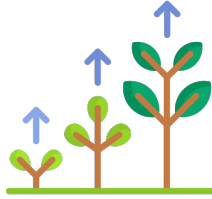
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<https://vimeo.com/607591317>

Javier & Yvonne
Student & Educator

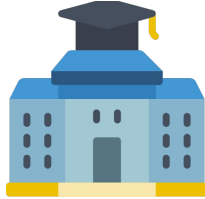


A Review: Features of California Colleges.edu



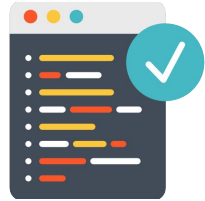
A One-Stop Shop for Students and Educators

Everything in one place, from a student's first career exploration in 6th grade to college and financial aid applications in 12th grade.



Designed for California Students

The platform moves with students within the state, and **unique integrations** with the CCC, CSU, UC, and CSAC systems streamline the college application process.



Intentional Educator Integrations

Timely educator reports help K-12 educators provide universal student support, identify targeted interventions, and meet statewide standards.



Tailored Support for Districts

Individualized partnership and training designed to meet your district's individual needs and goals.



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Reflection

How can the tools of
CaliforniaColleges.edu be
leveraged to advance equity
work within California's
educational systems?





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Oakland Unified School District

Vinh Trinh

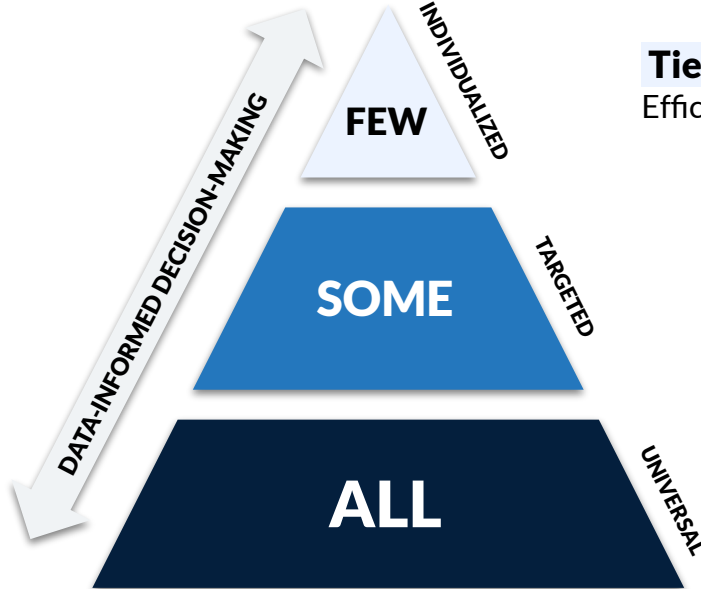
Manager, Master Scheduling
and Comprehensive Student
Supports





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.



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Implementing Equity-Focused State Policies

Districts can use the data and reporting tools on CaliforniaColleges.edu to support successful implementation of equity-focused state policies.





What about Dual Enrollment?

- ▶ Dual Enrollment (DE) refers to college courses taken while in high school. They do not appear on the high school “A-G Lists” in the CMP, as these are college courses.
- ▶ DE courses can be used to meet CSU and UC eligibility requirements.
- ▶ DE courses must be manually entered into college applications, but students and educators may be unfamiliar with which college courses are recognized as meeting which A-G requirements.
- ▶ Our goal is for students DE courses to be included on students records in CaliforniaColleges.edu, in order to:
 - More accurately represent CSU/UC Eligibility
 - Integrate college coursework into the application integrations with public colleges
 - Deliver a unified final transcript at the point of high school graduation



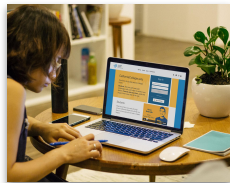
New Ed Code (Summer 2024)

The following subsections of code is a policy anchor, which establish CaliforniaColleges.edu as the future state infrastructure for the work outlined below:

*EDC § 48800(c) A pupil shall receive credit for community college courses that the pupil completes at the level determined appropriate by the governing boards of the school district and community college district. Using available funding apportioned to the community college district pursuant to Section 84750.4, the governing board of the community college district shall report the pupil's completed courses and grades received through eTranscript California, also referred to as "eTranscriptCA," for purposes of enabling the uniform integration of the pupil's completed courses and grades received into the pupil's universal and electronic high school transcript that is housed on the **CaliforniaColleges.edu** platform.*

The implementation timeline for the code section above is not yet determined, but the opportunity and intent is clear.

Moving Forward



CONSIDER

Consider how a district's efforts to leverage CaliforniaColleges.edu supports the work you do with students.



CONNECT

Consider connecting with your points of contact to learn about how they are leveraging CaliforniaColleges.edu.



LEARN

Continue to learn about CaliforniaColleges.edu via our Resource Hub.

Check Out the Resource Hub

The CaliforniaColleges.edu
Resource Hub contains on-
demand resources,
including step-by-step
tutorials for each of our
student-facing tools

Visit

[californiacolleges.edu/
resourcehub/resources/](https://californiacolleges.edu/resourcehub/resources/)



About Partner Student Accounts

A Partner Student Account allows you to use all of the tools available to students on CaliforniaColleges.edu. If you're enrolled in one of our [Partner Districts](#), then you should already have a Partner Student Account created for you. You will need to register your account before you can access CaliforniaColleges.edu.

Partner Districts have established a formal data-sharing agreement with California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI), which makes it possible for your school district to securely upload your transcript data into CaliforniaColleges.edu.



Student Tools Tutorials

Our interactive tutorials give you step-by-step instructions for how to use and navigate the student tools on CaliforniaColleges.edu. To access the tutorials, simply click on the dark blue bars below for the type of resource you're looking for. This will expand each section and allow you to see the different tutorials we have available to help you explore the platform. Clicking on the "Start the Tutorial" button will launch the tutorial in a new tab/window on your browser.

Interactive Tutorials Guide



Managing Your Student Account



Career Assessments



Career, College, and Major Exploration Tools



College and Career Planning Tools



College Application Tools



Financial Aid Tools





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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/



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



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

Questions?



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Thank You!



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