

Strategic Plan of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System Governing Board

August 2023

Mission

To be California's source of actionable data and research on education, economic, and health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities; to expand access to tools and services to navigate the education to employment pipeline.

Vision

The California Cradle-to-Career Data System connects individuals and organizations with trusted information and resources. It provides insights into critical milestones in the pipeline from early care to K–12 to higher education, skills training, and employment. It empowers individuals to reach their full potential and fosters evidence-based decision-making to help California build a more equitable future.



Office Operations

Statement of the Problem:

Prior to C2C, there was no central, neutral state entity authorized and funded to bring together C2C-relevant data across different domains. No entity was empowered to facilitate this information integration across silos to provide insights, improve coordination, and remove barriers across large institutions.

Goal:

Establish and operate a new state entity that uses secure, effective, and efficient processes and procedures to earn and keep the trust of data providers and the public.

Objectives:

- » Annually share an updated transparent plan that clarifies timelines and expectations for C2C and collaborating organizations (data partners and state partners)
- » Fill established positions for the Office (16 in total) by Summer 2023
- » Refine and establish necessary office procedures, policies, and frameworks by Fall 2023
- » Define fiscal and human resources needed to achieve C2C's statutory charge by Fall 2023
- » Build the C2C Governing Board's governance culture with focus on ambassadorship as measured in progress summaries discussed at every Governing Board meeting and in an annual governance survey starting in Fall 2023
- » Fill proposed positions for the Office pending budget approval (10 in total) by Winter 2023
- » House the C2C office in an inclusive space designed to foster community engagement by Spring 2024
- » Build C2C's organizational culture with a focus on equity and shared values, as measured in annual employee engagement survey starting in Spring 2024
- » Be a fully functioning new state entity by Summer 2026



Analytical Data

Statement of the Problem:

Data is siloed in different state-level entities, making it hard for decision-makers to answer important questions.

Goal:

Build a linked analytical dataset that connects existing state-level data on education and job outcomes that will empower decision-makers to answer important questions.

Objectives:

- » Data providers submit reliable and timely data annually that C2C links and keeps secure with first submission by Fall 2023
- » First dashboard on a priority topic by Spring 2024
- » A query builder that enables disaggregation by Spring 2025
- » Develop data request process for the Secure Data Enclave for researchers to conduct studies by Winter 2024
- » By Summer 2026, the linked analytical data set contains multiple domains (education, workforce, health and human services)



Practical Tools

Statement of the Problem:

Students face confusing barriers in applying for college and financial aid, needing to navigate multiple platforms to complete applications and share information from their transcripts. These barriers can exacerbate existing disparities.

Goal:

Coordinate with partners to reduce barriers for applying to college and financial aid and expand the number of students who benefit from these tools by linking real-time information across institutions and communicating about these options to students.

Objectives:

- » Create a roadmap for how eTranscript can become a seamless platform for transferring transcripts across post-secondary institutions by Summer 2024
- » Decrease administrative burden for students seeking to attend college by promoting CaliforniaColleges.edu as a one-stop shop for launching financial aid applications, applying to public colleges and universities, and accessing planning resources for public, independent, and private colleges and universities by Fall 2024
- » Champion the goal of reaching 95% of California's public high school students with accounts powered by real-time transcript data by Summer 2026



Engagement

Statement of the Problem:

Communities lack equitable access to usable information and data to address their priorities.

Goal:

Different types of users will need different types of information when accessing the data system, and Cradle-to-Career will engage with communities to listen to and identify their information needs through our user-centered design work, community engagement activities, and trainings and outreach for the data system's practical tools, with a Governance structure that reflects and supports these priorities.

Objectives:

- » Identify key communities and contacts for outreach and input; establish outreach goal by Summer 2023
 - » Identify: Data ambassadors, partnerships in key communities, defining key communities
 - » Reach: 70% of C2C-identified advocacy groups who engage with key communities
- » Define C2C's brand identity and communications strategy by Fall 2023
- » Establish baseline metrics for public-facing products for reporting by Summer 2024
- » Ensure information is trusted and useful by prioritizing transparency in communications and processes (ongoing and with measurable metrics by Summer 2024)
- » Prioritize quality of engagement: C2C promotes equitable access to its engagement activities by region and key communities (ongoing and with measurable metrics by Summer 2026)
- » Prioritize actionable information: C2C data informs decisions, policy, and research (ongoing and with measurable metrics by Summer 2026)