

Cradle-to-Career Governing Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: October 18, 2023
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Governing Board
Subject: **Role of the Office and Governing Board Members**
Staff Contact: Mary Ann Bates, Executive Director and Robert Tagorda, Chair

At this meeting, the Governing Board (Board) will have the opportunity to learn about the role of the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data (Office) in addressing equity gaps displayed by the information included in the data system.

Requested Action:

There is no requested action for this item. This is an informational item only.

Background:

At the August Board meeting, a Board member asked that a future agenda item address the role of the Office in identifying and reporting on equity gaps. The member inquired what action(s), if any, the Office can take in addressing equity gaps other than simply displaying the information to the public.

This staff report summarizes the roles of the Office and the Board regarding action taken to address equity gaps.

Summary:

The Office: According to [statute](#), the role of the Office is the “managing entity” that serves as a *neutral administrative* body and a *source* for actionable data and research on education, economic, and health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities, and provide for expanded access to tools and services that support the navigation of the education-to-employment pipeline.

The Office's priority is to be a *neutral*, and therefore, trusted entity, with its vision stating, "The Cradle-to-Career System connects individuals and organizations with trusted information and resources." Additionally, the [Governance Manual](#) states the Office ensures accessibility to information by providing the public with dashboards, query builder tools, and a research library, as well as provide access to non-public data for authorized users.

Generally, while the Office should have expertise in data and analytics to support the collection, provision, analysis, visualization, and use of information, it remains neutral and does not establish its own educational or policy agenda. The Office is charged with providing neutral written summaries of information available through the data system related to the public good and fostering equitable opportunities and outcomes.

The Office uses a transparent process to implement the direction of the Board and facilitate an inclusive input process from the public and data providers. Additionally, the Office puts out information at the request of the Board.

Please refer to the [Governance Manual](#) (pages 37-40) to read more about the specific roles and responsibilities outlined for the Office.

The Board: According to the [Governance Manual](#), the Board provides vision, direction, and oversight for the Office, serving as the authority for the escalation of issues. Board members are obligated by [statute](#) to prioritize the needs of students and families and promote a culture of data-informed decisionmaking by consulting with data experts and intended data users, including members of the public, when developing data use priorities.

Additionally, [statute](#) determines the Board must ensure the data system is serving its intended purposes by submitting recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature to adjust the data system's vision, mission, and strategic objectives, particularly recommendations related to improving educational outcomes and reducing opportunity gaps. The Board can also make recommendations to the

Office for topics to be included in written reports to provide a neutral summary of information available in the data system.

The [Governance Manual](#) states Board members have the role to secure sufficient resources, build ongoing support, and advocate for using the data system with the public, Governor, Legislature, and data providers.

Please refer to the [Governance Manual](#) (pages 17-20) to read more about the specific roles and responsibilities outlined for the Board.