

Cradle-to-Career Governing Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: April 17, 2024
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Governing Board
Subject: **Update on CDE Data Points**
Staff Contact: Ryan Estrellado, Director of Data Programs

At this meeting, the Governing Board (Board) will receive an update on [two data points that were discussed during the February 28, 2024](#) Board meeting.

Requested Action:

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

Background:

At the February Board meeting, the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data (Office) provided an update on data points that the California Department of Education (CDE) does not expect to submit in the future. The Board asked the Office to collaborate with CDE to investigate these data points and provide an update at the May Board meeting. These data points are Parental Education Level, and assessment data points (SAT, ACT, IB, and AP scores). For the latter, the CDE expressed in communication to the Office that the CDE no longer has a business need for SAT or ACT data and therefore do not have data sharing agreements in place for these data. The CDE also communicated that while it receives AP and IB information, the Office would need to independently pursue data sharing agreements with the assessment providers.

Follow Up: Parental Education Level:

About SES, Free or Reduced-Price Meals (FRPM), and Parental Education

The CDE provides a Socioeconomic Status indicator to the P20W data system, which is calculated by combining parental education level and whether students are receiving or are eligible for FRPM. CDE noted that if the Parental Education level is also provided, it would inadvertently disclose whether students

are receiving or are eligible for FRPM. The CDE shared that it is prohibited by federal statute, Section 9(b)(6)(A) of the National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1758(b)(6)(A)), from providing FRPM data on students for purposes other than providing students with school breakfast or lunch without parental consent.

The Board asked for information on the relationship between SES and Parental Education, how they are used in research, and additional factors to consider so that the Board can decide which data point to prioritize for the data system and request of CDE. For more information about how FRPM eligibility is used in combination with Parent Education level to determine SES, refer to the [CALPADS Data Guide](#) (pgs. 166 - 174). For more information about how these data points are currently represented in the P20W data set, refer to the [C2C website](#).

Discussion With Experts and Stakeholders:

The Office convened an ad-hoc meeting with CDE, Data and Tools Advisory Board members, and subject matter experts to understand research and funding use cases for these data points. The CDE shared during this discussion that Parental Education Level historically allowed for blank or missing data to be reported for students, and that SES is calculated for all students from more than one data element. Accordingly, Advisory Board members and experts agreed that SES is more commonly used in research, because the composite measure of SES provides more complete information than Parental Education on its own. For this and other reasons, equity-focused programs leverage SES to determine funding allocations focused on economically disadvantaged students. Further, participants expressed interest in understanding the intended purpose of using parental education as researchers have used alternative data sources such as vital birth data which collect similar and reliable data points. Parental Education, however, can inform student pathways and the ability to disaggregate data by Parental Education as written in the Cradle-to-Career statute, [Education Code 10856\(b\)\(1\)](#), “(1) Disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, region, gender, military status, parents' education, and age”.

Other Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS):

Based on a national state by state evaluation of other SLDS public-facing tools, the Office determined that most states include information on student, school, or district-level (socio)economic disadvantage status; only a few states offered parental education level on K-12 students in a public-facing format without a formal research request.¹

Alternative Data Sources:

SES:

Currently, CDE is the only contributing data provider with K-12 student socioeconomic status. Other data providers have access to parental income levels and social services. Other data points in the P20W data set could be used as a proxy for low-income, based on eligibility for programs such as CalFresh (DSS) or Medi-Cal (DHCS). These data points, however, account only for economic disadvantage and may have different inclusion criteria than the SES indicator from CDE.

Parental Education Level:

The P20W data set receives Parental Education information from CCC, CSU, and UC for students enrolled in a public postsecondary institution.

In the meeting with CDE, Advisory Board members, subject matter experts, and attendees discussed proxy data that they regularly use in lieu of parental education data from the CDE. Other SLDS² and research teams receive Parental Education information from birth records. In California, birth records collect parental education data, and are housed within the California Department of Public Health–Vital Records. This could provide the data set with Parental

¹Other SDLS within state departments of education may have parental education data for K-12 students, but it is unclear if this data is made available for public use.

² The [MN Early Childhood Education Data System](#), within the Minnesota Department of Education, receives Mother's Education Attainment at Birth from birth records. See example of dashboards with this information [here](#).

Education information for K-12 students born in California, but not for K-12 students who move to California from elsewhere.

Solutions to Consider Based on Input:

Considering the limitations shared by the CDE of providing this data, feedback provided by researchers, precedence set by other SLDS, and possible alternative data providers, two initial options have emerged:

- Remove Parental Education as a stand-alone data point that CDE provides, and investigate receiving parental education for K–12 students from other sources.
- Remove SES as a data point that CDE provides, and direct the Office to explore constructing an SES data point from existing data points from other data providers.

The next step for the Office is to examine data in the system to better understand how well other existing data points correlate with K–12 SES and K–12 parental education. That analysis can inform future Board discussion on which data point to prioritize for the P20W data set.

Follow Up: College Assessment Data Points:

At the February 28, 2024 Board meeting, the Board discussed the following data points, which were included in the list of P20W data points and originate from ACT, the College Board, and International Baccalaureate (IBO):

Data Point	Providing Agency
ACT English score	ACT
ACT math score	ACT
ACT science score	ACT
ACT reading score	ACT
SAT reading and writing score	College Board

SAT math score	College Board
Advanced Placement (AP) exam scores	College Board
International Baccalaureate exam scores	International Baccalaureate

Context for Proposed Data Points:

These data points would inform the creation of the planned C2C [College and Career Readiness Dashboard](#).

Other Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems:

The Office also notes that 86% of SLDS survey respondents currently include AP scores and SAT/ACT scores in their planned reporting capacity (Bloom-Weltman et al., 2021).

Summary of Meeting With IB:

As of April 15, 2024, the Office has been in communication with the IBO and has prepared to sign a data sharing agreement. After the agreement is signed, the Office will begin discussing the details of importing data.

Summary of Meeting With College Board:

As of April 15, 2024, the Office has met with representatives of the College Board to discuss a data request. Discussions with both the College Board and CDE about potential options to include these data points in the P20W data set are ongoing.

Summary of Meeting With ACT:

As of April 15, 2024, the Office has met with representatives of the ACT corporation to discuss a data request. Discussion with both the ACT and CDE

about potential options to include these data points in the P20W data set are ongoing.

Next Steps:

Over the coming weeks, C2C will continue to work with the assessment providers on the possibility of a data sharing agreement.

References:

Bloom-Weltman, J., Honey, R., Meholick, S., & Fetro, M. (2021). Profile of State Data Capacity in 2018: Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Survey Descriptive Statistics. Stats in Brief. NCES 2021-126. *National Center for Education Statistics*.