

# Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: November 4, 2024  
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board  
Subject: **Student Experience Audit Update (Agenda Item 14)**  
Staff Contact: Judy Chan, Deputy Director, Digital Services

At this meeting, the Governing Board (Board) will receive an update on the 2024 Student Experience Report.<sup>1</sup>

## Requested Action:

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

## Background:

Per [Education Code Section 10867\(b\)\(5\)\(A\)](#), the California Cradle-to-Career Data (C2C) System is responsible for conducting an annual student experience audit related to navigating the transition from secondary education to higher education. This work supports the scaling, expanding, operating and maintaining of C2C's operational tools and data system.

At the November 15, 2024 Board meeting, the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data (Office) will provide the Board with an update on the 2024 Student Experience Report. This agenda item will review the motivation for the Student Experience Report, the research methods used, and preliminary key findings. The Office will also inform the Board on the timeline for the report's release.

For the 2024 Student Experience Report, C2C partnered with researchers at the [UC Davis California Education Lab](#) (California Education Lab) to conduct a large-scale investigation of high school seniors' experience as they transition

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<sup>1</sup> Education Code Section 10867(b)(5)(A) requires the Office to conduct "an annual student experience audit related to navigating the transition from secondary education to higher education." The Office will use the term "Student Experience Report" on its public-facing documents and website.

from high school to college. C2C contributed questions to an existing survey that the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) administers. CSAC sent this web-based survey to all students who filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) in the 2024–25 academic year.

The survey asked graduating high school seniors about topics such as college readiness during high school, applying for financial aid, and what students are excited or nervous about as they start college. The survey questions were a combination of Likert-scale questions, selected response items, and open-ended prompts. The California Education Lab research team analyzed the results by student race/ethnicity, gender identity, and parent education level. The final report will include data for more than 10,000 California high school seniors who responded to the survey.

Preliminary findings provide insight to the challenges and opportunities that college-bound high school seniors face, such as fulfilling A-G requirements, taking dual enrollment classes, and learning where to seek help when applying for college or financial aid. Open-ended responses provide direct input from students' voices and contextualize the findings. The results of this year's Student Experience Report establish a baseline from a large, representative sample that the Office can use to inform the development of practical tools and ensure the work of the Office is in line with students' needs. Future Student Experience Reports will be able to spotlight more specific topics that relate to how students navigate to and through college.

In collaboration with the research team at the Californian Education Lab, C2C will release the complete Student Experience Report in February 2025. To accompany the report launch, C2C and the research team will co-host a webinar to discuss the results.