



# California Cradle-to-Career Data System

Student Pathways Data Story Data Dictionary

April 2025

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## **Glossary**

- Academic Year: A twelve-month period defined to start on July 1st and end on June 30th.
- Award Type: The type of educational degree(s) an individual earned from California public college(s). It could be a Community College Certificate, an Associate Degree, a Bachelor's Degree - Did Not Transfer, or a Bachelor's Degree - Transferred.
- Award Year: The academic year an individual earned the educational degree from a California public college.
- **Enrollment Year**: The academic year an individual enrolled in a California public college for the first time.
- **First College Attended**: A flag indicating whether an individual first enrolled in a California public 2-year college, a California public 4-year college, or did not enroll in a California public college, after graduating from a California public high school.
- Foster Status: A yes or no flag indicating whether an individual has ever been identified as a foster youth in the Department of Social Service's data while enrolled at a California public K-12 institution between 2014-2015 and 2022-2023.
- Gender: The gender of an individual as reported in the year of high school graduation. It can be Male or Female. Nonbinary individuals are proportionally distributed across Male and Female categories to reduce the frequency of complementary suppression.
- **High School Completion Year**: The academic year an individual graduated from a California public high school.
- Highest Degree Earned: The highest educational degree an individual earned between 2014-2015 and 2022-2023, ranging from "Attended but Did Not Complete College at a CA Public College" to "Completed a Bachelor's Degree at a California Public College".
- **Homeless Status:** A yes or no flag indicating whether an individual has ever been identified as homeless while enrolled at a California public K-12 institution between 2014-2015 and 2022-2023.
- **Institution Type**: The type of public college an individual attended. It could be a California public 2-year college or a California public 4-year college.
- Median Annual Earnings for College Graduates: The median annual (inflation-adjusted) earnings for a cohort of individuals who received their highest educational degree from a California public college in the same academic year.

- Median Earnings for Students Enrolled in College: The median (inflation-adjusted) for all individuals who worked while attending a California public college in a particular academic year.
- Race/Ethnicity: The race/ethnicity of an individual as reported in the year of high school graduation. It can be American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, or White.
- **School District**: The name of the California public school district an individual graduated high school from.
- **State Assembly District**: The California's State Assembly District that an individual's high school zip code falls under. It ranges from 1 to 80.
- **State Senate District**: The California's State Senate District that an individual's high school zip code falls under. It ranges from 1 to 40.
- Works in College: A flag indicating whether an individual worked while attending a California public college. The criteria for "working" is to have earnings data in at least three out of the four quarters during an academic year.
- Years to Degree: The number of years an individual took from first enrolling in the awarding public college to earning the educational degree from that college.
- Years Since Award: The number of years elapsed since an individual earned his or her highest educational degree from a California public college.

#### **Dataset Metadata**

- Dataset Overview:
  - Title: Student Pathways Data Story
  - Description: This dataset contains the underlying microdata used in C2C's Student Pathways Data Story to track students' paths to postsecondary education and labor market outcomes.
  - Version: Apr 4, 2025
  - o Date of Creation: Jan 8, 2025
- Data Collection:
  - Data Source: The following entities provided data for this dashboard:
    - California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
    - California Department of Education (CDE)
    - California Community College System (CCC)
    - California State University System (CSU)
    - Employment Development Department (EDD)
    - University of California System (UC)
  - Time Period: 2014-2015 to 2022-2023
  - Grain Size:
    - Publicly available data can be disaggregated by any of the provided grouping variables such as academic year, gender, and legislative districts, subject to the requirement that each visualization must have at least thirty individuals in it to be displayed.
  - Frequency of Collection: Annually
  - Coverage: This dataset covers individuals who were enrolled in the California public K-12 education system from 2014-2015 to 2022-2023 and graduated from a California public high school.
- Data Quality and Reliability:
  - Data Suppression Policy: The office currently operates under a data suppression policy. If a requested data disaggregation returns fewer than 11 individuals in a cell or fewer than 30 individuals in a visualization, the exact count for that cell will not be displayed. Please refer to the following documentation for more details:
    - https://c2c.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Cradle-to-Career-Data-System-Suppression-Protocol-for-Summary-Data.pdf
  - Known Limitations: This dataset collects retrospective information from the previous academic year and is updated on an annual basis. Therefore it is not suitable for checking recent changes in educational attainment.
- Data Structure:
  - File Format: Extracts will be available as .csv files.

#### • Ethical and Legal Considerations:

- Confidentiality: Individual-level data is only available through C2C's Data Research Request process. Any attempts to re-identify individuals are strictly prohibited.
- Citation Requirements: To reference this dataset in publications or reports, please use this citation:
  - California Cradle-to-Career Data System (2025). Student Pathways Data Story (Version number
    - 1).c2c.ca.gov/data-stories/pathways-to-college-in-california/

#### • Related Documentation:

- o C2C Data Points: <a href="https://c2c.ca.gov/data-elements-by-provider/">https://c2c.ca.gov/data-elements-by-provider/</a>
- o **C2C Dashboards**: https://c2c.ca.gov/cradle-to-career-dashboards/
- Related Publications: No publications at this time

#### Access and Usage:

- Data Location: Data can be found on the C2C website at the following link <u>c2c.ca.gov/data-stories/pathways-to-college-in-california/</u>
- Contact Information: info@c2c.ca.gov

## **Data Dictionary**

#### **Explanation of Fields**

**Public-Facing Variable Label (Internal Variable Name):** The public-facing variable label appearing on the website is an intuitive name more accessible to dashboard end-users. The internal variable name is the column name used in the raw dataset.

- **Description:** A short description of what the variable is.
- Business Rule: Rules for modifying or altering variables from the original data provider(s). Examples include changing categories so that there is better alignment across different data providers and collapsing categories with many values into more interpretable and simpler groupings. It might also reference the time when certain demographic characteristics were measured and/or updated.
- **Field Type:** The variable's type of values in SQL syntax. Common types include:
  - o INTEGER: a numeric value that takes on only positive whole numbers.
  - VARCHAR(n): a string of characters with varying length up to n characters.
  - o DOUBLE: a numeric value with decimal point numbers or percentages.
  - DATE: a date typically formatted as YYYYMMDD where YYYY indicates the year, MM indicates the month, and DD is the day. This field uses leading zeros for the month and the day.
- **Field Length:** The maximum number of characters the variable can hold.
- **Allowed Values:** Value options the variable can hold, i.e., True/False, integers between 1-40, 5-digit zip codes, etc.
- **Default Value:** Default value for the variable if unintialized.
- **Is Nullable?**: Whether the variable is allowed to have a NULL or missing value. If the variable is nullable, data for this variable may be subject to incompleteness.
- **Security/Privacy Notes:** Notes on security concerns around the variable, whether the variable is classified as personally identifiable information, and/or whether the variable can only be shared with a safe harbor threshold.
- Usage Notes: Uses for and caveats of the variable.
- Related Database: Related external datasets such as the IPEDS, School District, or county identifier, if applicable.
- Data Provider(s): The agency responsible for providing this variable, with a link
  to its website when applicable. If one wishes to obtain individual-level data for
  this variable, this agency must consent to disclosure via the Data Research
  Request process.

# Student Demographic Data

This section contains variables describing demographic characteristics. They are all defined as were collected at the beginning of the cohort period and will not vary thereafter.

#### Gender (gender\_code\_final)

- **Description:** This is the individual's gender, as reported at the beginning of the cohort period.
- Business Rule: For the Student Pathways Data Story, the individual's gender corresponds to the value collected at the beginning of the cohort period for all subsequent years.

• Field Type: INTEGER

• Field Length: N/A (Integer field)

Allowed Values:

1 = Male

2 = Female

• Default Value: NULL

• Is Nullable?: No

Security/Privacy Notes: N/A

 Usage Notes: This variable is used for demographic analysis and reporting and helps to understand diversity in student pathways. In the Student Pathways Data Story, it serves as a global filter for all visualizations.

Non-binary data collection is in early stages, meaning current availability is limited and historical trends are lacking. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) started to collect the non-binary response option in 2020-2021. The inclusion of non-binary in the dataset greatly increases the frequency of complementary suppression because this data is often unavailable. For now, Nonbinary individuals are proportionally distributed across Male and Female categories to reduce the frequency of complementary suppression. The ability to identify students as non-binary will be available in future releases of this dashboard, once data has time to populate.

Related Database: N/A

• Data Provider(s): California Department of Education

#### Race/Ethnicity (race\_code\_final)

- **Description:** This is the individual's race/ethnicity, as reported at the beginning of the cohort period. The categorization aligns with the <a href="IPEDS">IPEDS</a> reporting standard.
- **Business Rule:** For the Student Pathways Data Story, the individual's race/ethnicity corresponds to the value collected at the beginning of the cohort period for all subsequent years. Filipino students are grouped under the broader category of Asian, in order to align with the IPEDS categorization.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:
  - 1 = American Indian or Alaska Native
  - 2 = Asian
  - 3 = Black or African American
  - 4 = Hispanic or Latino
  - 5 = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - 6 = Two or More Races
  - 7 = White
  - 8 = None Reported
- Default Value: NULLIs Nullable?: Yes
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- Usage Notes: This variable is used for demographic analysis and reporting and helps to understand diversity in student pathways. In the Student Pathways Data Story, it serves as a global filter for all visualizations. The categorization is aligned with the P20W dataset and may not reflect the full granularity as it exists in the original data source. The "None Reported" value option is not available as a dropdown filter but is available in the aggregated reporting as a downloadable file.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): California Department of Education

#### Foster Status (foster\_youth\_status)

- **Description:** This variable indicates whether the individual has ever been identified as a foster youth while enrolled at a California public K-12 institution.
- **Business Rule:** A student is classified as a foster youth if he or she was *ever* in the foster care system between 2014-2015 and 2022-2023.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:
  - 0 = Not Foster Youth
  - 1 = Foster Youth
- Default Value: NULL
- **Is Nullable?:** Yes. Although this variable is fully populated in CDSS's database, nulls will appear once CDSS's data is merged with CDE data, as not everyone in CDE's data has a record in CDSS's data.
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable is used for demographic analysis and reporting and helps to understand diversity in student pathways. In the Student Pathways Data Story, it serves as a global filter for all visualizations.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): California Department of Social Services

#### **Homeless Status (unhoused)**

- **Description:** This variable indicates whether the individual has ever been lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence while enrolled at a California public K-12 institution. For more information on the definition of homelessness, please refer to Homeless Youth in California Schools.
- **Business Rule:** A student is classified as homeless if he or she has *ever* experienced homelessness between 2014-2015 and 2022-2023.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:
  - 0 = Did Not Experience Homelessness in K-12
  - 1 = Experienced Homelessness in K-12
- Default Value: NULL
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable is used for demographic analysis and reporting and helps to understand diversity in student pathways. In the Student Pathways Data Story, it serves as a global filter for all visualizations.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): California Department of Education

#### **Educational Attainment Data**

This section contains variables related to an individual's educational attainment and postsecondary enrollment status.

#### School District (district\_name)

- **Description:** This variable corresponds to the name of the Local Educational Agency where the individual was enrolled in twelfth grade.
- **Business Rule:** This variable is mapped from CDE's data using the associated 7-digit lea\_code. When there are multiple names for one lea\_code, the system will select the most recent name.
- **Field Type:** VARCHAR(50)
- Field Length: Up to 50 characters
- Allowed Values: School district names such as Los Angeles Unified School District.
- Default Value: NULLIs Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable helps to understand diversity across regions and serves as a global filter for all visualizations in the Student Pathways Data Story.
- Related Database: For more details and a crosswalk to NCES codes, please refer to <u>Public Schools and Districts Data Files - County-District-School</u> Administration (CA Dept of Education)
- Data Provider(s): California Department of Education

#### First College Attended (first\_college\_attended)

- **Description:** This variable indicates the type of the first college the individual attended after graduating from a California public high school.
- **Business Rule:** It is derived from the enrollment files of CCC, CSU, and UC. Colleges from the CSU and UC systems count as 4-year and colleges from the CCC system count as 2-year.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:
  - 0 = Never Enrolled in a CA Public College
  - 1 = First Enrolled in a CA Public 4-Year College
  - 2 = First Enrolled in a CA Public 4-Year College
- Default Value: NULL
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable is used in the "Student Pathways from High School Graduation to a College Degree" diagram to track different pathways after high school graduation. In the first release of the Student Pathways Data Story, it only captures college-going behaviors for individuals who enrolled in California public colleges. Private colleges and out-of-state colleges will be added in the future.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State</u> <u>University System</u>, and <u>University of California System</u>

#### **Highest Degree Earned (highest\_degree\_earned)**

- Description: This variable indicates the individual's highest educational degree earned during the cohort period, with the highest level reported capped at a Bachelor's degree.
- **Business Rule:** It is derived from the enrollment and award files of CCC, CSU, and UC.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:
  - 1 = Attended But Did Not Complete College at a CA Public College
  - 2 = Completed Community College Certificate at a CA Public College
  - 3 = Completed Associate Degree at a CA Public College
  - 4 = Completed Bachelor's Degree at a CA Public College
- Default Value: NULL
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable is used in the "Student Pathways from High School Graduation to a College Degree" diagram to track different pathways after college enrollment. In the first release of the Student Pathways Data Story, this variable does not allow educational degrees beyond a Bachelor's degree.
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State</u>
   <u>University System</u>, and <u>University of California System</u>

#### **Enrollment Year (enrollment\_year)**

- **Description:** This variable captures the academic year during which the individual enrolled in a California public college for the first time.
- Business Rule: It is derived from the enrollment files of CCC, CSU, and UC.
- Field Type: VARCHAR(9)
- Field Length: Nine characters long
- Allowed Values: Nine-character string to represent an academic year, i.e., 2014-2015.
- **Default Value:** 2022-2023
- **Is Nullable?:** Yes. A null field indicates that the individual did not attend a California public college.
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as a filter in the "First Time College Enrollment by Student Population" diagram.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State</u> <u>University System</u>, and <u>University of California System</u>

#### Institution Type (institution\_type)

- **Description:** This variable describes the type of the California public college the individual attended.
- Business Rule: It is derived from the enrollment files of CCC, CSU, and UC.
   Colleges from the CSU and UC systems count as 4-year and colleges from the CCC system count as 2-year.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:
  - 1 = 2-Year College 2 = 4-Year College
- Default Value: NULL
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as a filter in the "First Time College Enrollment by Student Population" as well as "Median Wages for Students Enrolled in College" diagrams.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State University System</u>, and <u>University of California System</u>

#### Award Type (award\_category)

- **Description:** This variable indicates the type of award the individual has earned during the cohort period from California public college(s).
- **Business Rule:** It is derived from the application and award files of CCC, CSU, and UC.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:
  - 1 = Community College Certificate
  - 2 = Associate Degree
  - 3 = Bachelor's Degree Did Not Transfer
  - 4 = Bachelor's Degree Transferred
- Default Value: NULL
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable distinguishes different degree attainment after college enrollment. In the first release of the Student Pathways Data Story, this variable does not allow educational degrees beyond a Bachelor's degree.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State</u> <u>University System</u>, and <u>University of California System</u>

#### Award Year (award\_year)

- **Description:** This variable captures the academic year during which the individual earned an educational award from a California public college.
- Business Rule: It corresponds to the academic\_year field in the award files of CCC, CSU, and UC.
- Field Type: VARCHAR(9)
- Field Length: Nine characters long
- **Allowed Values:** Nine-character string to represent an academic year, i.e., 2014-2015.
- **Default Value**: 2022-2023
- **Is Nullable?:** Yes. A null field indicates that the individual did not earn an educational award from any California public colleges.
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as a filter in the "Degrees and Certificates Earned at CA Public Colleges", "Median Time to Award for Graduates of CA Public Colleges", and "College Graduates Employed in California" diagrams.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): California Community College System, California State University System, and University of California System

#### Years to Degree (years\_to\_degree)

- **Description:** This variable captures the number of years the individual took from first enrolling in the awarding public college to earning the educational degree from that college.
- Business Rule: It is derived from the enrollment and award files of CCC, CSU, and UC.
- **Field Type**: INTEGER
- Field Length: Up to 2 digits
- Default Value: NULL
- **Is Nullable?:** Yes. A null field indicates that the individual has not earned an educational award from a California public college.
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as the x-axis in the "Median Time to Award for Graduates of CA Public Colleges" diagram. Due to methodological complexity, years spent on the degree from a previous college for individuals who transferred are not tabulated into this calculation.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State</u> University System, and University of California System

# **Employment Data**

This section contains variables related to employment data, both while attending college and after graduation.

#### **Academic Year (academic\_year)**

- **Description:** This variable refers to the twelve-month period that begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th.
- Business Rule: N/A
- **Field Type:** VARCHAR(9)
- Field Length: Nine characters long
- **Allowed Values:** Nine-character string to represent an academic year, i.e., 2014-2015.
- Default Value: 2022-2023
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as a filter in the "Median Wages for Students Enrolled in College" diagram.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): California Community College System, California State University System, and University of California System

#### Works in College (works\_in\_college)

- **Description:** This variable indicates whether the individual worked while attending a California public college.
- Business Rule: Derived from CDE, CCC, CSU, UC and EDD data, the individual
  who worked in college is someone who graduated from a California high school
  anytime within the cohort period, enrolled in a California public college, and had
  non-zero earnings data for at least three out of the four quarters during an
  academic year.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: N/A (Integer field)
- Allowed Values:

0 = No 1 = Yes

- Default Value: NULL
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable selects individuals whose earnings data would be featured in the "Median Wages for Students Enrolled in College" diagram.
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Department of Education</u>, <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State University System</u>, <u>University of California System</u>, and <u>Employment Development Department</u>

# Median Wage for Students Enrolled in College (wage\_p50\_college)

- **Description:** This variable captures the median wage for all individuals who worked while attending a California public college in a selected academic year.
- **Business Rule:** Derived from CCC, CSU, UC, and EDD data, this variable is the 50th percentile of the annual wages during one academic year, rounded to the nearest dollar, for all individuals who were enrolled in a California college and had at least three non-zero quarters of earnings.

• Field Type: INTEGER

Field Length: N/A (Integer field)Allowed Values: Earnings in Dollars

Default Value: NULLIs Nullable?: No

• Security/Privacy Notes: N/A

• **Usage Notes:** This is an aggregated variable and featured in the "Median Wages for Students Enrolled in College" diagram.

• Related Database: N/A

Data Provider(s): Employment Development Department, California Community
 College System, California State University System, and University of California

 System

#### Years Since Award (years\_since\_award)

- Description: This variable captures the number of years elapsed since an individual earned his or her highest educational degree from a California public college.
- Business Rule: It is derived from the award files of CCC, CSU, and UC.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: Up to 2 digits
- Allowed Values: Number of years, such as 5 years.
- Default Value: NULL
- **Is Nullable?:** Yes. A null field indicates that the individual has not earned an educational degree from a California public college.
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as the x-axis in the diagram "College Graduates Employed in California".
- Related Database: N/A
- Data Provider(s): <u>California Community College System</u>, <u>California State</u> <u>University System</u>, and <u>University of California System</u>

# Median Annual Earnings for College Graduates (median\_wage)

- **Description:** This variable captures the median annual earnings for a cohort of individuals who received their highest educational degree from a California public college in the same academic year.
- Business Rule: Derived from CCC, CSU, UC, and EDD data, this variable is the 50th percentile of the annual wages in a selected academic year, rounded to the nearest dollar, for a cohort of individuals who received their highest educational degree from a California public college in the same academic year. Only individuals with four quarters of non-zero earnings are included in this calculation.

• Field Type: INTEGER

Field Length: N/A (Integer field)Allowed Values: Earnings in Dollars

Default Value: NULLIs Nullable?: No

• Security/Privacy Notes: N/A

 Usage Notes: This variable is important for economic and employment trend analysis. In the Student Pathways Data Story, it is featured in the "College Graduates Employed in California" diagram as an aggregate.
 For more precise details on what constitutes wages, see the following resource: EDD Information Sheet.

• Related Database: N/A

Data Provider(s): Employment Development Department, California Community
 College System, California State University System, and University of California

 System

## Other Data

This section contains other variables used in the Student Pathways Data Story.

#### State Assembly District (assembly\_district)

- **Description:** This variable captures the California's State Assembly District that the individual's high school zip code falls under.
- **Business Rule:** The most recent Assembly District is applied retrospectively to all data. In the case where one zip code is associated with more than one Assembly District, the zip code is assigned to the Assembly District that covers more of the zip code's population.
- Field Type: INTEGER
- Field Length: Up to 2 digits
- Allowed Values: Integers from 1 to 80.
- Default Value: NULL
- Is Nullable?: No
- Security/Privacy Notes: N/A
- **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as a global filter for all visualizations in the Student Pathways Data Story.
- Related Database: <u>2024-2025 Legislative Session Zip Code Directory -</u> Assembly Districts
- Data Provider(s): Senate Office of Demographics (publicly available data)

#### **State Senate District (senate\_district)**

- **Description:** This variable captures the California's State Senate District that the individual's high school zip code falls under.
- **Business Rule:** The most recent Senate District is applied retrospectively to all data. In the case where one zip code is associated with more than one Senate District, the zip code is assigned to the Senate District that covers more of the zip code's population.

• Field Type: INTEGER

• Field Length: Up to 2 digits

• Allowed Values: Integers from 1 to 40.

Default Value: NULLIs Nullable?: No

• Security/Privacy Notes: N/A

• Security/Privacy Notes: N/A

• **Usage Notes:** This variable serves as a global filter for all visualizations in the Student Pathways Data Story.

Related Database: <u>2024-2025 Legislative Session Zip Code Directory - Senate Districts</u>

• Data Provider(s): Senate Office of Demographics (publicly available data)