

Cradle-to-Career Community Engagement Advisory Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: October 10, 2025
Attention: Members of Community Engagement Advisory Board
Subject: **Overview of Planned FY 2025-26 Engagement Efforts
(Agenda Item Five)**
Staff Contact: Shannon Serrato, Director of Engagement; Angelique Palomar, Deputy Director, Communications; and Cintia Lopez-Montes, Communications Coordinator

At this meeting, the Community Engagement Advisory Board (CEAB) will receive updates on the California Cradle-to-Career Data System's (C2C) planned Engagement efforts for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, which include training, outreach, and accessibility. This staff report is broken down into three main parts: language access, section one, accessibility, section two, and training and outreach, section three.

Requested Action:

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

Background:

The CEAB, established through [Education Code Section 10865\(b\)\(2\)](#), is responsible for examining whether the managing entity is creating strong feedback loops with data users, supporting evidence-based decision-making and analytical capacity, and ensuring equitable access to actionable information.

Section One: Language Access

Equity is a central focus of C2C's work as we aim to provide equitable access to actionable information for the public, as outlined in C2C's statute ([Education Code Section 10865\(b\)\(1\)\(B\)](#)). In [FY 2025-26](#), the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data

(Office) will continue and expand accessibility efforts to reduce barriers for end-users of the Data System, focusing on collaboration, partnerships, and developing best practices to ensure equitable access to information for all Californians.

Section One, Part A: Language Access

In the upcoming year, the Office will enhance current translation and interpretation efforts to improve C2C's language access initiatives. The Office is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with limited English proficiency have meaningful access to C2C's public tools and information.

Section One, Part B: Member Questions - Language Access

During the CEAB meeting, Advisory Board members will have the opportunity to share written and verbal input on these in-depth questions:

- ❖ The Office aims to expand its language access services beyond the currently provided Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation for public meetings, as well as simplified Chinese for written communications. Given staffing and expertise constraints, how might C2C expand its language access scope?
 - What could 'meaningful access' look like for multilingual communities beyond translation?
- ❖ What has worked in your communities? Can you share examples of what resonated with community members?
- ❖ What does success look like? How do we measure success?

Section Two: Accessibility

As detailed in [C2C's FY25-26 Workplan](#), advancing accessibility is one of the key components of C2C's engagement efforts, ensuring that everyone can access and use C2C's available tools and resources. As the Data System evolves, the Office is continuing to meet the needs of all Californians by providing accessible ways for the public to engage with its tools and share their input.

Section Two, Part A: Web and Material Accessibility

The Office is implementing strategies for accessibility compliance and ensuring that C2C designs and develops digital and physical content, including websites and public-facing materials, that all Californians, including those with disabilities, can understand, navigate, and interact with effectively.

Section Two, Part B: Partnerships

The Office will form strategic partnerships with state agencies, including the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), to develop policies and procedures that ensure C2C provides accessible information to users.

Section Two, Part C: Member Questions - Accessibility

During the CEAB meeting, Advisory Board members will have the opportunity to share written and verbal input on these in-depth questions:

- ❖ What does accessibility mean in the context of your work, what successful accessibility models can we learn from?
 - Who might be unintentionally excluded from our resources and tools based on the current materials that C2C offers?
- ❖ Beyond engaging with DOR, what partners should C2C engage with to advance the Office's accessibility efforts?
 - What metrics or outcomes would tell us we're making progress in our accessibility efforts?

Section Three: Training and Outreach

As detailed in [C2C's Strategic Plan](#), different types of users require varying types of information when accessing the data system. As C2C releases new data tools, the Office is focusing its efforts on enabling and empowering users to engage with and see themselves in the data.

Section Three, Part A: Data Walks and Data Academies

The Office will build upon outreach efforts to design Data Academies and Data Walks that will enable users to engage with and see themselves in the Data

Story. C2C will collaborate with key stakeholders to raise awareness and empower users.

Products will include artifacts that tell the story of how communities engaged with their data, such as event kits and case studies. These materials will serve as a roadmap for others to replicate and expand similar data engagement efforts.

Section Three, Part B: Lesson Plan Challenge

Following the release of C2C's Student Pathways Data Story, the overwhelming response from the public was that the public wanted to learn how to engage with the dashboards and bring the data back to their communities. The Office responded to that feedback with the recent launch of C2C's [Lesson Plan Challenge](#), a statewide invitation for teachers to design a lesson plan that demonstrates creative and accessible ways to integrate the Student Pathways dashboard into instruction, enabling students, educators, and communities to interpret education and career pathways data and insights, build data literacy skills, while centering student experience in exploring data.

Section Three, Part C: Member Questions - Training and Outreach

During the CEAB meeting, Advisory Board members will have the opportunity to share written and verbal input on these in-depth questions:

- ❖ As the Office develops its training and outreach programs, we would like your input on the following:
 - C2C is committed to conducting Data Walks in FY 2025-26, and would like to partner with Advisory Board members to deliver these events. With limited staff and capacity, please share your thoughts on the effectiveness of in-person, hybrid, or virtual Data Walks.
 - C2C's Lesson Plan Challenge closes March 2026, and the Office is conducting ongoing engagement and outreach to ensure as many educators know about and participate in the Challenge. How can you help spread awareness about the Challenge?

- ❖ As the Office expands its data literacy efforts, C2C is exploring connecting data users as part of a Community of Practice. How might C2C effectively facilitate Communities of Practice?
 - Do you have best practices for Communities of Practice?
 - Do you have examples of organizations or entities that are facilitating Communities of Practice well?
- ❖ Focusing on C2C's released analytical tools, how else might the Office expand data literacy to ensure as many users as possible can engage with the tools?