



THE CALIFORNIA CRADLE-TO-CAREER DATA SYSTEM

A data-driven project by Californians, for Californians

California dedicates significant financial resources to supporting and improving the lives of people through childcare, education, social programs, small business support, and job training. For these programs and investments to be effective, they need to work together. However, the data from these programs often stays separate and does not connect. Without collaboration across these investments, how do we know what works and what doesn't?

The California Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C), was a collaborative effort championed by government, educators, researchers, and students, established in 2021 to answer that question. A [first-of-its-kind data system](#), C2C brings data together across silos to provide valuable insights about jobs and opportunity. It marks a major step toward transforming California's understanding of education and workforce development.

DATA AND INSIGHTS FOR CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

Californians want a clear picture of what paths lead to success. C2C's verified and linked data offers a comprehensive view of the most pressing issues on education and jobs. This data lets you see paths over time, and be able to answer critical questions like:

- » **How are Californians accessing well-paying jobs?**
- » **What kinds of degrees or training programs lead to strong career opportunities?**
- » **How is California preparing the next generation of its workforce?**

As of 2026, Cradle-to-Career's singular common legal agreement allows for data sharing from 17+ state entities across education, social service, and workforce. The agreement enables C2C to map pathways from higher education to degree and credential attainment, and helps students see their stories reflected in the data, by region or demographics. The linked data already provides crucial information about TK-12 education, public higher education, and employment. C2C has built the legal and technical infrastructure to make it easier and less burdensome for information to flow across state entities, so they can learn together about what works, and collaborate in serving Californians.

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF STUDENT DATA IN CALIFORNIA

Data can be a powerful tool for students, families, and lawmakers with the necessary security and privacy practices in place.

C2C is committed to protecting confidential records of all Californians. C2C does not collect new data from students or families. It links and enables the public to gain insights from data that has already been collected and validated by its data partners. Learn more about data privacy: c2c.ca.gov/data-system-privacy/.

C2C's transparent governance structure gives its data partners and the public a seat at the table and a vote on what data C2C brings together and how it is used. Learn more about C2C's Governing Board: c2c.ca.gov/leadership/governing-board-members/.