



Feasibility Study: High School Outcomes Data Extract

Recommendation from the Office of California Cradle-to-Career Data System

This proposal seeks to create a high school student pathway, higher education, and workforce outcomes data extract for California K-12 local education agencies (LEAs). This request has a reasonable cost and a high level of value regarding access to actionable information.

The Office of California Cradle-to-Career Data System (Office) recommends that it make adjustments to the website to create clearer navigation to assist LEA staff to find the extract file from the Pathways Data Story. In addition, the Governing Board (Board) could direct the Office to create an additional public extract that provides more data points on postsecondary outcomes for high school graduates during fall 2026.

Updated May 2026: A significant finding from the DTAB meeting discussion was that this proposal to produce LEA level research files was uniquely feasible. This is based not only on the findings of the light-touch feasibility study, but also in the context of the Office's current focus on producing aggregated and suppressed research files for the public. In addition, the implementation of the proposal would fall within the Office's current authority because it would not require adding new data providers or data elements.

Background

In 2025, Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) members Iulia Tarasova and John Watson proposed that the Office provide K-12 districts and county offices with easier access to information on the longer-term outcomes of their graduates. The full text of the proposal can be found at [this link](#).

When conducting feasibility studies, the Office considers four factors: data availability, data reliability and data validity, cost, and compliance. Information on each aspect is included below.

Potential Approaches to Data Access

There are two ways that this proposal could be addressed:

Option 1: Create clear navigation to available data

This option focuses on ease of access to the information that can already be downloaded from the Pathways Data Story. In the short term, to ensure that people who work at LEAs can easily find information on their graduates' outcomes, the California Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C) website could include a feature in its drop down menu or provide a link on the Student Pathways Data Story page that allows users to select a specific LEA and then download summary data with a single click. When the query builder is developed, it could have a specific feature for LEAs with a ready made report, similar to the federal Integrated Postsecondary Data System's [Data Feedback Report](#).

Option 2: Provide expanded public access to data already included in the C2C analytical data set

This option would be implemented as part of the query builder. A clearly marked option for LEAs and county offices would allow users to download information from the current Pathways Data Story, plus additional data points that are already included in the analytical data set. All downloads would follow the same suppression protocol as data points in the Pathways Data Story to ensure student privacy. The proposal included a list of potential additional data points. If the proposal is adopted, this list would be reviewed by the relevant data providers to determine which data points to include, based on considerations about data quality and availability at the LEA level (for example, if a data point is missing from many LEAs, or is a newer data point that may not have information for the timeframe used for the Pathways Data Story, it would not be included).

Data Availability

Data Sources and Historical Range: *Where the data originates from and the span of years for which data are available.*

All of the information requested is already included in the C2C analytical data set.

Future Relevance and Data Availability: *Evaluate whether the new data will remain useful as the analytical dataset evolves and if the information is likely to be collected in the future.*

LEAs are a key user for the C2C data system and would benefit from being able to see information about the longer-term outcomes of their students. Given that many LEAs must purchase this data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) each year, being able to access data through C2C for free may be the only way for them to have this information, given budget reductions.

Because the data points being requested are already included in the Participation Agreement with the data providers, this information should remain available in the future.

Data Reliability and Data Validity

Institutional Variability: *Whether there are variations in administrative practices and data recording across institutions at the local level.*

Data included in the Pathways Data Story have already been evaluated to ensure they are reliable at the institutional level. Any additional elements would be vetted by the data providers.

Agency Variability: *Data and metric definitions across various agencies follow a uniform format and standard.*

Data included in the Pathways Data Story have already been evaluated to ensure they are reliable at the institutional level. Any additional elements would be vetted by the data providers.

Data Integration Across Agencies: *The Office's ability to consolidate data from multiple agencies.*

Data included in the Pathways Data Story and additional requested elements have already been linked within the C2C analytical data set.

Cost

Startup Costs: *Costs to provide access including both direct costs and associated staff time for the Office and its data providers.*

There would be no additional costs for the data providers.

Costs for the Office would include staff time to review availability of requested data points at the LEA level, coordination with data providers to review the list of data points that would be included, and implementation costs.

Ongoing Costs: *Costs necessary to maintain collection of the stated data elements for the Office and data providers.*

For options 1 and 2, some staff time will be needed for the production, housing, and maintenance of the extract files.

Compliance

Legal Requirements: *Compliance with privacy laws, intellectual property rights, and any other relevant regulations.*

There are no legal concerns, given that the requested information would be provided under the protocols already established to ensure individual privacy.

Scope: *Whether the proposal is consistent with the scope of work that is described in the Cradle-to-Career Act.*

The request aligns with the intentions of the [initial legislation](#), which prioritized “identifying and tracking predictive indicators to enable parents, teachers, health and human services providers, and policymakers to provide appropriate interventions and supports to address disparities in opportunities and improve

outcomes for all students.” Making it easier for educators to get information on their students would be consistent with the discussions held during the [planning process](#), when agency representatives contemplated ways to provide privileged access for data providers and their associated local institutions.

Neutrality of the Office: *Whether the proposal might jeopardize the Office's neutral stance.*

Because the focus of the proposal is enhancing data access for educational institutions that submit the information that populates the C2C analytical data set, it does not impact the Office's neutrality.

Suppression and Regulatory Feasibility: *The impact of compliance policies on access to data based on the Office's data suppression policy and other regulatory concerns such as reidentification risks.*

This proposal can be implemented using the current data suppression policies and does not pose a risk to regulatory issues such as reidentification.