

Cradle-to-Career Data and Tools and Community Engagement Advisory Boards Staff Report

Date Report Issued: July 3, 2026
Attention: Members of Data and Tools and Community Engagement Advisory Boards
Subject: Office Updates (Agenda Item Three)
Staff Contact: Mary Ann Bates, Executive Director and Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

At this meeting, the Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) and Community Engagement Advisory Board (CEAB) will receive an update from the Office of California Cradle-to-Career Data System (Office) on key highlights. This staff report is broken down into four main sections: one, Outreach and Engagement Efforts, two, Dashboards Updates, three, Spring Advisory Board and May 20 Governing Board (Board) Meeting, and four, Member Updates and Reminders.

Requested Action:

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

Section One: Outreach and Engagement Efforts

As reflected in California Cradle-to-Career Data System's (C2C) [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 25-26 annual work plan](#), the Office is committed to hosting ongoing community conversations, events, and engagement activities. This section provides an update on key engagement effort accomplishments.

Community Conversations:

In FY 25-26, the Office hosted five community conversations and two informational sessions to solicit input and feedback on various topics, including:

- ❖ [Query Builder: Exploring Pathways to College in California](#);
- ❖ [Lesson Plan Challenge](#) + two Lesson Plan Challenge informational sessions;
- ❖ [2026 Lookahead](#);
- ❖ [Student Experience Report](#); and
- ❖ [Transfer Outcomes Dashboard](#).

Most recently, on June 18, 149 members of the public, including eight DTAB and nine CEAB members, had an opportunity to provide feedback on how C2C can reach more users, including students, families, educators and what materials and resources C2C could provide to help users build data literacy skills to effectively use the Transfer Outcomes Dashboard.

Data Walk and Community Outreach:

- ❖ On April 22, the Office was in San Bernardino for a data walk, in partnership with CEAB member Jones, where C2C engaged with educators, advocates, and community leaders on C2C's tools and resources to advance data literacy and empower communities to see themselves in the data. C2C posted a [video](#) to recap the event.
- ❖ On April 23, the Office virtually presented to the Data Visualization County Offices of Education Network, which represent LEAs from across California, to engage in conversation, gather user feedback on C2C's tools, understand how subject matter experts engage with the data, and identify improvements.

The Office will continue to partner with trusted organizations and educators to host data academies and data walks throughout California. Any interested partners should contact [C2C](#) for more information.

Lesson Plan Challenge:

The Lesson Plan Challenge concluded on March 16, 2026. C2C invited state educators to design and submit a 45-60 minute lesson plan that incorporates the Student Pathways Dashboard to promote data literacy and encourage students to use data as they explore education and career pathways.

The lesson plans C2C received range from data literacy in early education, college readiness and preparation, and postsecondary courses such as data science, education policy, and research methods, and early education.

Thank you to DTAB member Unda and CEAB members Grattidge and Takagi who helped in the scoring of submissions. Submissions will be uplifted as Student

Pathways Dashboard companion materials on the C2C website soon. These lesson plans include additional context and support for educators across California and beyond to incorporate into their curriculum.

Section Two: Dashboards Updates

In FY 25-26, the Office continued its work on providing accessible public-facing data visualizations to provide neutral and actionable information on the education to employment pipeline. This section provides an update on two of C2C's public dashboards, Transfer Outcomes and Student Pathways.

Transfer Outcomes Dashboard:

C2C has prioritized building the Transfer Outcomes Dashboard to illuminate the intersegmental journey of transfer-intending students as they move between the California community college system, four-year institutions, and the workforce. Throughout dashboard design and development, C2C has leveraged the insights of diverse user groups, data providers, and subject matter experts to ensure that the dashboard answers high-priority questions about transfer. C2C will continue its User Centered Design processes to ensure that the dashboard and its companion materials are built to address the diverse use cases of different types of audiences, which includes usability testing and feedback from end users. DTAB and CEAB members interested in participating in future usability testing to provide feedback should contact [Marykate Cruz Jones](#).

Student Pathways Dashboard:

In April 2025, C2C celebrated the launch of the [Student Pathways Dashboard](#), C2C's first public dashboard. One year later, on April 16, 2026, C2C released the dashboard's first update, which included enhanced capabilities that were driven by feedback from Californians, including Advisory Board members. The new Students Pathways Dashboard includes a new year of data, is now fully mobile device-friendly, provides a faster user experience, and prioritizes accessibility, giving more Californians access to on-demand insights on education and career pathways. Advisory Board member suggestions, especially for expanding mobile access and creating new ways for users to

draw insights from the data, were integral during C2C's design phase for the dashboard update.

Section Three: Spring Advisory Board and May 20 Board Meetings

This section provides updates from the recent Spring Advisory Board meetings, specifically on C2C's Data Dictionary and Train-the-Trainer model, and key takeaways from the May 20 Board meeting.

Spring Advisory Board Meetings:

The DTAB met on [March 25](#) and the CEAB met on [April 8](#). During the meetings, members received an update on the C2C Data Dictionary and had an opportunity to provide feedback on enhancing user experience and accessibility. DTAB and CEAB members shared feedback on leveraging interactive features, including download and search functionality, and improving technical clarity through plain language to improve diverse audience accessibility. The Office will continue to leverage DTAB and CEAB member feedback leading up to the release of the updated Data Dictionary.

DTAB and CEAB members also provided feedback on data academies and C2C's five-year anniversary, and volunteered to co-host and aid the Office in upcoming engagement events. DTAB and CEAB feedback on C2C's Train-the-Trainer model uplifted the importance of empowering members to be knowledgeable advocates and educators on C2C's work and data literacy. As the Office continues to develop the Train-the-Trainer model, the Office asked members to complete a survey by July 2 to provide input on what members believe is most important for communities to understand and what helpful resources C2C can develop for different learning styles.

May 20 Board Meeting:

The Board met on [May 20](#). The following are key takeaways from the meeting:

- ❖ The Office of Data and Innovation presented on their partnership with C2C on the Modern Data Stack Accelerator, which works to ensure that the data coming into the P20W data system is cleaner and more reliable from the start, enabling users to make informed decisions.

- ❖ As part of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) data expansion, the Board voted to include employer data points from the Employment Development Department (EDD), which will allow for a more holistic understanding of wages and more accurate record matching.
- ❖ Following a multi-month effort, the Board approved the new C2C Strategic Plan, which was informed by extensive stakeholder engagement from the Board, Advisory Boards, and the public.
- ❖ Board Liaison to the DTAB member González-Vásquez and DTAB member Millán presented the [DTAB proposal report](#). Board members recognized the proposals were well informed and appreciated the highlights of important educational issues and opportunities to explore how data can provide answers to questions raised in the proposals.
- ❖ Board Liaison to the CEAB member Nellum and CEAB member Lopez-Valdes presented the [CEAB proposal report](#). Board members appreciated the thoughtfulness of the proposals and members wanting to engage with the work and acknowledged opportunities to work with the Office on continuous stakeholder engagement.

Section Four: Member Updates and Reminders

On June 17, the Office launched the redesigned [Selection for Advisory Boards webpage](#), which includes user-friendly information on selection criteria, member expectations, responsibilities, and available resources. It serves as both an official resource for current members and a centralized source of information for individuals interested in applying during future recruitment cycles.

As highlighted in the Office's recent [blog](#) post, serving on a C2C Advisory Board is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact for Californians. DTAB and CEAB members carry responsibilities that extend beyond public meetings, including service as ambassadors for C2C and their communities. Prior to each meeting, members are encouraged to share relevant events and community resources to strengthen connections and increase awareness among fellow members. In addition, because meetings are only held three times a year,

members are expected to prioritize attendance to ensure they can provide feedback and contribute to C2C's ongoing work.

Member Expectations and Responsibilities:

As we near the Fall and a new year of service, the Office would like to remind members of expectations and responsibilities outlined in the [Governance Manual](#):

"All [Advisory Board] members are expected to:

- ❖ Advocate for C2C to key stakeholders;
- ❖ Complete all required paperwork and trainings;
- ❖ Attend all meetings. In the event of an emergency, provide advance notice to the Office. If an [Advisory Board] member misses any meeting outside of emergency circumstances, the Office has the authority to ask the member to step down" (page 32, 36-37).