

Cradle-to-Career Data and Tools Advisory Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: September 16, 2026
Attention: Members of Data and Tools Advisory Board
Subject: **2026 Data and Tools Advisory Board Proposal Process
(Agenda Item Seven)**
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

At this meeting, the Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) will receive a high-level overview of the 2026 Advisory Board proposal process, including presentation and deliberation of member proposals.

Requested Action:

This is an informational item. To prepare for this meeting, the Office of California Cradle-to-Career Data System (Office) asked DTAB members to:

- ❖ Review and reflect on the two DTAB member proposals; and
- ❖ Review and complete the Member Proposal Workbook (Workbook).

Background:

The DTAB can address a significant gap via the proposal process by recommending:

- ❖ Changes to tools such as dashboards or practical tools; or
- ❖ Additional data points not available through the P20W data set or adjusting (including the removal of) the existing P20W data points.

Attachment B maps the 2026 DTAB proposal process timeline and key dates.

2026 DTAB Member Proposals:

The Office received two member proposals, saved in the [proposal repository](#):

- ❖ [Community College Certificate Requirements \(Length\)](#) - submitted by Members Schak, Unda, and Yee
- ❖ [Parenting Student Data in Higher Education](#) - submitted by Members Catanzarite and Cheuk

Expectations for Member Preparation and Deliberation:

The 2026 DTAB proposal process will continue at the September 30, 2026 meeting. Members will hear a 10-minute presentation on each proposal¹, followed by public comment, and member deliberation. Member feedback during deliberation will help inform the draft DTAB proposal report (report).

To help members prepare, the Office provided:

- ❖ Proposal [Rubric](#): Outlines the criteria for a strong recommendation.
- ❖ Workbook (Attachment A): Provides a comparison of the proposals and a reflection chart to help members consider the proposals overall.

Before the meeting, members should reflect on the following questions and use them to guide their responses in the Workbook:

- ❖ How does each proposal fit into the [work plan](#)?
- ❖ How does each proposal fit into the [strategic plan](#)?
- ❖ How does each proposal fit into California Cradle-to-Career Data System's (C2C) [mission, vision, and authority](#)?
- ❖ What is the potential impact and benefit of each proposal?

Next Steps in the Process:

Attachment B highlights the next steps in the proposal process following the Fall DTAB meeting and leading up to the Spring meeting, including the light-touch feasibility studies and development of the draft report². If the Office does not receive two volunteers to draft the report by Friday, October 30, 2026, the report will not be presented at the March DTAB meeting, nor the May Governing Board meeting.

¹ It is at the discretion of the presenting members as to whether there will be time for member comments; no presentation shall exceed ten minutes.

² Examples of past reports can be found in the [proposal repository](#) under related materials.



Member Proposal Workbook

Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) Meeting

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Overview

The Member Proposal Workbook (Workbook) is designed to help members organize their thoughts and reflect on key questions in order to actively engage in discussion during the meeting. The Workbook is structured into two sections:

1. **Dynamic Comparison Chart:** a high-level summary of each proposal, written by the proposal authors, to help members compare key themes and ideas.
2. **Big Picture Reflection Chart:** uses yes-or-no questions to capture members' perspectives on proposals overall.

Instructions

Before the DTAB meeting, members are expected to:

1. Review both proposals and the **Dynamic Comparison Chart**; and
2. Fill out the **Big Picture Reflection Chart**.

During the DTAB meeting, members are expected to share their reflections from the Workbook during member deliberation. This Workbook is for members' notes only and will not be shared publicly. During the DTAB meeting, members are expected to share their reflections during deliberations.

Dynamic Comparison Chart

	Community College Certificate Requirements (Length)	Parenting Student Data in Higher Education
What does this proposal address?	This proposal addresses undergraduate certification completion for various credential lengths.	It adds standardized student-parent data to California's P20W system so the state can measure parenting students' education and workforce outcomes—and disparities relative to non-parenting students.
Who benefits from this proposal?	Information on credential length will empower higher education leaders and practitioners to better compare short-term programs on an apples-to-apples basis and more consistently support quality postsecondary options. In turn, the dashboard tool will benefit students, families, and counselors, by providing them with the context needed to understand the time, money, and job outcomes ascribed to each certificate pathway.	Parenting students, especially those who are disproportionately low-income, female, and from underserved racial and ethnic groups, along with the institutions and policymakers responsible for supporting their success.
Why does this proposal matter?	This proposal advances C2C's mission by connecting the length of undergraduate certificates—a currently uncaptured credential characteristic—with education, workforce, and health outcomes to produce actionable data. It would also help California identify community college programs that may qualify for Workforce Pell, evaluate its outcomes, and track whether students continue into longer credentials. Adding this information now would give California a valuable head start as it develops its Workforce Pell system.	Without consistently identifying parenting students, California cannot equitably assess their access, persistence, completion, or workforce outcomes—or design supports that address their needs and advance multigenerational mobility.
How does this proposal provide actionable information?	It is actionable because this data is already collected by CCCCCO, and it would be utilized by C2C's existing data dashboard and query builder.	Standardized individual-level parent-status data, with optional child-count and youngest-child-age measures, would enable dashboard comparisons, query-builder disaggregation, targeted research, and eventually cross-generational analysis.

Big Picture Reflection Chart

Fill out the chart below, addressing the questions in the left column.

	Community College Certificate Requirements (Length)	Parenting Student Data in Higher Education
Does this proposal fit into the Work Plan ?		
Does this proposal fit into the Strategic Plan ?		
Does this proposal fit into C2C's mission, vision, and authority ?		
Does this proposal have a clear impact and benefit?		

2026 Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) Proposal Process Milestones

Date	Milestone
May 1, 2026 ✓	The public submits proposal forms. - The Office received seven DTAB proposals .
July 15, 2026 ✓	Question and answer session with data provider subject matter experts and opportunity for DTAB members to publicly discuss proposal ideas and proposals received from the public.
August 19, 2026 ✓	DTAB members had the option to: - Submit their own proposal form; - Submit a joint proposal form with no more than five DTAB members; - Sponsor a proposal form submitted by members of the public; or - Further refine a proposal form submitted by member(s) of the public or a DTAB member from a previous year.
September 30, 2026 🕒	DTAB members will present proposals and members will discuss which are most promising for advancing C2C's ability to provide actionable information.
Fall 2026 - Spring 2027	Office of Cradle-to-Career Data (Office) will conduct light-touch feasibility studies of DTAB member proposals and two DTAB members will work with the Governing Board Liaison to create the draft proposal report.
March 17, 2027	DTAB members will discuss the draft proposal report.
May 26, 2027	The DTAB proposal report will be presented to the Governing Board.