

## Summary of Community Engagement Subcommittee Recommendations

Over the course of 2020 and the first half of 2021 more than 200 people from 15 state agencies and many educational institutions, research and policy organizations, and community groups worked together to design a blueprint for the California Cradle-to-Career Data System.

The extensive planning process, which was facilitated by WestEd, included multiple subcommittees that considered various aspects of data system development including, technology and security, legal frameworks, data definitions, and community engagement. These are recommendations set forth from the [Community Engagement Subcommittee](#) regarding how to create mechanisms for strong feedback loops with data users, support evidence-based decision making and analytical capacity, and ensure equitable access to actionable information.

The workgroup proposed a series of recommendations which are detailed in reports delivered to the legislature in [December 2020](#) and [April 2021](#). A final report was completed in [June 2021](#). Here is a list of the final recommendations from this subcommittee.

### Key Features

- Understand that there are four key audiences (analyzers, planners, practitioners, and individuals), and more specific personas within each key audience, who will have different needs and interests
- Establish a theory of action for advancing equity, and apply it to communications and professional development activities to ensure equity is being addressed intentionally
- Prioritize helping people understand the information, clarifying structural factors that drive outcomes, addressing potential bias in data interpretation, and detailing how key audiences can use information for common tasks

### Strategies

- Emphasize asset-based and student-centered approaches to displaying and interpreting information

- Provide resources in plain language that fosters data literacy, and in multiple languages
- Integrate resources into the design of the data tools wherever possible
- Establish targets for community engagement activities and measure them to ensure they are succeeding Roles
- Ensure C2C staff have expertise in community engagement
- Partner with stakeholders to design, engage, and support data-informed action within the community
- Identify ways to tap into the expertise of the people who are represented in the data system
- Cultivate an intentional strategy to find data ambassadors to do outreach with a focus on community leaders, develop key messages with the data ambassadors, and build the capacity of data ambassadors to do outreach
- Create structures so that people are able to provide feedback even if they are unfamiliar with technical terms, such as creating feedback forms with multiple choice options
- Work with a communications agency or others with specific expertise in the topic, using a transparent selection process for selecting external partners