

What is the California College Guidance Initiative?

The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI or the Initiative) provides a data and planning infrastructure that helps to increase postsecondary preparation and attainment for students in California.

Our Objectives

The Initiative has two overarching objectives:

- 1) All high school seniors in California graduate with clear postsecondary and career goals and a plan for how to achieve them.
- 2) Each student's academic transcript data follows them as they advance across educational systems to reduce information gaps that otherwise hinder their success.

Our Approach

CCGI works towards our overarching objectives by:

- 1) Managing CaliforniaColleges.edu, the state of California's interactive, web-based college and career planning platform, and its embedded 6th through 12th grade curriculum.
- 2) Utilizing CaliforniaColleges.edu platform as a central academic data hub to match and verify unique student identifiers in order to reliably transmit students' transcript records between K-12 districts and the California Community Colleges, the California State University System, the California Student Aid Commission (Cal Grants) and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (Pell Grants).
- 3) Increasing the capacity of K-12 school districts to systematically integrate college and career planning as a core component of all 6th-12th grade students' education as part of developing a college-going culture.

CaliforniaColleges.edu

Used by over 750,000 6th-12th grade students in California during the 2016-2017 school year, CaliforniaColleges.edu provides students with an interactive 6th-12th grade curriculum that guides students through grade-appropriate exploration and planning activities, as well as the process of applying for college admission and financial aid. This includes:

- ▶ Career assessments;
- ▶ An academic planner that helps students choose the right high school courses to meet their postsecondary goals
- ▶ Career and major search tools that help students identify careers of interest and clarify what degrees, certificates and majors can help them gain entry to those career paths.
- ▶ A college search tool that includes all accredited nonprofit and public institutions of higher education in the United States, and helps students to identify institutions where their target degrees, certificates and majors are offered.
- ▶ A vocabulary list that helps students make sense of confusing terms associated with college and financial aid planning.

- ▶ High school seniors can launch applications from within their accounts on CaliforniaColleges.edu to all California Community Colleges currently participating in CCC Apply (107 of 114) and all 23 CSU campuses. They can also launch their FAFSA.
- ▶ An individual portfolio called “My Plan” where students set goals, develop college, career and financial aid plans, manage tasks associated with the college and financial aid application process and respond to reflective writing prompts that help them think through key decision points in the process.

CaliforniaColleges.edu tracks all student activity so that educators can monitor individual student progress and run aggregate reporting.

Looking ahead, CCGI aims to provide a continuous guidance platform through which students’ career development and educational plans move with them from segment to segment.

Intersegmental Data Transmission:

By articulating with the application platforms for both California Community Colleges and California State University, and by enabling students to launch applications from an account that is tied to their K-12 unique identifier (their SSID aka Cal Pads ID), CCGI is able to push data to the colleges and financial aid providers in a manner that helps them to correctly match records for each student and increase efficiency, accuracy and timeliness of decision making during key steps in the application, matriculation and academic placement processes.

K-12 District Partnerships

The core functionality of CaliforniaColleges.edu is available for free to all students, families and educators in California. However, there are an important set of capacity building services and value-add functionalities that are available to school districts that partner with CCGI.

Capacity building services to CCGI partner districts include dedicated staffing from CCGI’s data and implementation teams who provide:

- ▶ Intensive planning, professional development and user support, to advance the effective integration of the platform and data tools into guidance and instructional practices
- ▶ Facilitation of centralized workgroups at each district, charged with goal setting, monitoring progress and problem solving.
- ▶ Data file audits and dedicated data-team support to ensure that clean and usable data populates student accounts, and then pushes through to CSU and CCC campuses.

Value-add functionality for CCGI partner districts includes:

- ▶ CSU and UC eligibility reports to inform course placement and course scheduling
- ▶ Customized academic planner using the district’s local course catalog
- ▶ Assistance with data-matching between the California Student Aid Commission and FAFSA
- ▶ Enhanced account management and reporting functionality

During the 2017-2018 school year, CCGI has partnerships with 39 school districts who collectively serve upwards of 465,000 6th-12th grade students.

The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) is an equity-focused, nonprofit initiative, housed within the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC).