



AB 99 (Irwin) Cradle-to-Career Longitudinal Student Data Act

SUMMARY

AB 99 will establish the California Cradle-to-Career Data System within the Government Operations Agency. By securely connecting data that schools, colleges, financial aid providers, and employers already collect, it will be easier to:

- Identify the types of support services that help more students learn, stay in school, prepare for college, graduate, and secure a job;
- Provide information that teachers, administrators, parents, and students can use to identify opportunities and make decisions;
- Help agencies plan for and improve educational, workforce, and health and human services programs; and,
- Support academic research on improving public policies that shape us from our birth and into our careers.

The COVID-19 crisis has had a disproportionate impact resulting in learning loss, particularly among members of disadvantaged communities. Integrating our existing data systems will be critical to understanding [where equity gaps exist](#) and how to better target resources where they are needed most.

NEED FOR THE BILL

California is one of a handful of states that lacks a comprehensive education data system. While existing data systems capture student outcomes within K-12 and higher education, we lack the ability to follow students as they progress from one segment to the next. Each system also sets their own data definitions, which hinders comparisons and analysis of measures across segments.¹

Without this data infrastructure, California policymakers and researchers are unable to answer critical questions about whether policy interventions, such as the adoption of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) or Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs), are actually closing equity gaps and helping the state meet its education and workforce goals.

Pursuant to trailer bill language in the 2019-2020 Budget Act, more than 170 stakeholders from 15 state agencies, numerous educational institutions, research & policy organizations, and community groups have worked together over the past year to [design a blueprint](#) for the California Cradle-to-Career Data System.

THIS BILL

AB 99 enacts the recommendations of the stakeholder group and will require the system be designed with privacy and security of state data as the top priority.

Operational oversight and strategic planning will be provided by a Governing Board, which will make decisions by a two-thirds vote. The 18-member governing board will include 12 representatives from data providing entities and six members of the public who have experience with data systems.

The proposed data system will be a neutral source of high-quality information, paired with tools to help a range of stakeholders take action on this information.

- Members of the public will have open access to dashboards, a query builder, and a research library of key findings based on the data.
- Researchers will be able to request access to restricted data for authorized purposes via a transparent and accountable process.
- Teachers, counselors, and students & their families will be able to use a suite of operational tools that support college and career planning, college-eligibility monitoring, electronic transcripts, and access to financial aid resources.

CONTACT

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¹ Moore, C. et al. (August 2017). "California's Maze of Student Information: Education Data Systems leave Critical Questions Unanswered," Education Insights Center.
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