



**Cradle-to-Career
Data System
Breaking Barriers Symposium**

November 5, 2020

Goals

- **Provide information** on the Cradle-to-Career data system planning process and proposed tools
- **Answer your questions** about the process and the information that it would make available
- **Gather input** from you about how likely you would be to use the proposed tools and how you would use them, to evaluate whether the proposed tools would provide actionable data

The challenge: California needs actionable information

- California has **separate, disconnected information** on various education systems, social service programs, and employment.
- It has **been challenging to identify barriers and successes** for Californians as they move from early childhood through adulthood.
- **Actionable information** needs to be in the hands of **communities and families** to help create better outcomes for all Californians.

Taking action: The Cradle-to-Career data system

- In 2019, California enacted the [Cradle-to-Career Data System Act](#), which called for the establishment of a state longitudinal data system to **link existing** education, social services, and workforce information.
- The Act articulated the scope of an **18-month planning process** to be shaped by a workgroup that consists of the partner entities named in the Act. The planning process, which is being overseen by the Governor's Office and managed by WestEd, runs from January 2020-June 2021.

A collaborative approach to designing a solution

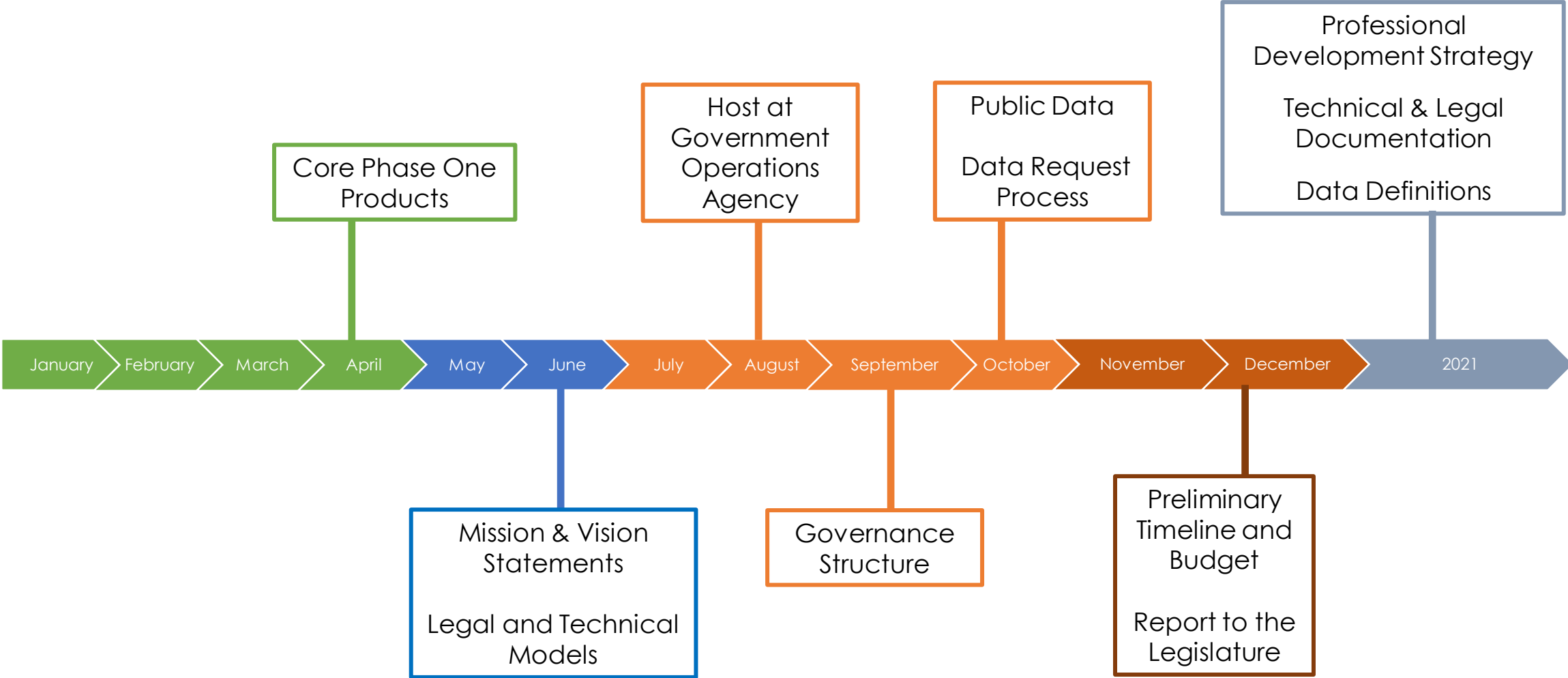
Partner entities include:

- **Early Learning and K-12:** California Department of Education, State Board of Education
- **Postsecondary:** the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, California Community Colleges, California State University, University of California
- **Education-Related Entities:** California Student Aid Commission, Commission on Teacher Credentialing
- **Employment and Workforce Training:** Employment Development Department, Labor and Workforce Development Agency
- **Social Services and Health:** California Department of Social Services, California Health and Human Services Agency
- **Data Experts:** California Department of Technology, California School Information Services

Members of the public are also helping to develop proposals and reviewed recommendations through two advisory groups (Policy & Analytics Advisory Group and Practice & Operations Advisory Group) and five subcommittees (Definitions, Technology & Security, Common Identifier, Research Agenda, and Community Engagement Subcommittees).

There are more than **170 people** involved in the planning process.

Planning Timeline



Timeline for implementation

- Initial legislative report will be completed by the end of December 2020
- The report to the legislature will recommend that funding be made available so development can start in the 2021-22 fiscal year
- Other states have taken about one year to get their data loaded into the data system and linked, after which the combined information will need to be validated and integrated into the public facing tools
- California will be poised for immediate action because so much of the technical documentation will have been developed before funding is released

The Proposed Solution

Cradle-to-Career data system purpose

Vision

The Cradle-to-Career Data System connects individuals and organizations with trusted information and resources. It provides insights into critical milestones in the pipeline from early care to K–12 to higher education, skills training, and employment. It empowers individuals to reach their full potential and fosters evidence-based decision-making to help California build a more equitable future.

Mission

To be California's source of actionable data and research on education, economic, and health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities; to expand access to tools and services to navigate the education to employment pipeline.

Cradle-to-Career data system products

Access to Information For and About Specific Students and Courses

Provided by scaling [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://californiacolleges.edu)/California College Guidance Initiative and eTranscript California

- College and career planning tools and curriculum
- College eligibility monitoring tools
- Electronic transcripts, including nontraditional learning artifacts
- Option to share social service history with college application
- Support for data cleaning at local education agencies

Q&A

- Would the operational tools provide information that you would find useful?
- How would you use the operational tools?

Multiple options for accessing data

No Review Needed

- **Instant access through a public website**
- View interactive dashboard visualizations on key transition points
- Build custom queries from 160+ data points
- Download tables and charts with aggregate results
- No legal agreement required

Expedited Review

- **One month to receive a data file**
- Request aggregate data not included in public tools
- No legal agreement required

Comprehensive Review

- **Three months to receive preliminary approval**
- Request unitary data
- Requires a legal agreement, IRB, proof of training, disclosure review, and final review before posting report in Cradle-to-Career Research Library

Focused on privacy and neutrality

- Data will be hosted by an **independent third party**—the Government Operations Agency—with oversight from a governing board that is accountable to taxpayers. It will not conduct its own research or issue policy statements.
- For college eligibility, transcript, and social service history data, individuals and their families, or authorized school personnel, will access tools through a **password-protected interface**.
- When looking at education and career outcomes, the public will only see **trends and summaries for anonymized groups of students**, with individual **information kept private**.
- For research projects, individual identities will be hidden, and studies must be approved through a **data request process**.

Key features of the dashboard

- Ability to view information by **multiple features** (timeframe, geography or institution, demographics and other characteristics) and export results
- Content determined based on how the information could support **potential actions** for families, teachers and counselors, administrators and policy makers, and advocates and researchers
- Wherever possible, **contextual information** is provided to clarify structural factors that may influence outcomes

Key features of the dashboard

- A top-level **pathway diagram** would show the full trajectory of individuals from early childhood education through postsecondary, including when they entered the workforce and attained a living wage
- Primary school outcomes based on participation in **early learning and care**, and quality of that care
- Relationship between **chronic absenteeism** and high school and college outcomes, in the context of counseling ratios
- Proportion of secondary students who **enroll in postsecondary**, where they enroll, attainment of first year milestones and awards, and time to award
- Proportion of community college students who become eligible for **transfer**, if and where they transfer, time to transfer, and bachelor's degree completion
- Proportion of students who apply to and enroll in college based on whether they receive **financial aid**, plus the relationship of financial aid to common majors, time to award, employment industry, living wage attainment, and debt
- **Employment** match rates, earnings, earnings gains, and living wage attainment over time

Examples of query builder content

Select from more than **160 variables** to generate **tables** and **charts** on student outcomes

- **Cohorts:** based on milestones such as kindergarten enrollment or high school graduation
- **Timeframes:** time trends going back to 2004 for some data points, or single years
- **Location:** such as specific institutions, regions, and political districts
- **Institution type:** such as public or private
- **Institution characteristics:** such as level of resources, academic opportunities, and community context
- **Student characteristics:** for example demographics, parental education level, and status such as foster youth, military, and disability
- **Student experiences:** such as participation levels, mobility across institutions, course-taking patterns, grade point averages, assessment scores, majors, and graduation status
- **Supports received:** including financial aid, CalWORKS, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal
- **Jobs:** including employment match rates, earnings, and industry of occupation

Q&A

- Would the dashboards and query builder provide information that you would find useful?
- How would you use the dashboards and query builder?

Key features of the data request process

- Complies with both education and health legal frameworks will ensure that **individual identities are protected**
- Leverages templates for legal agreements and aligns data request forms with institutional review board requirements will **reduce the timeframe** for receiving data
- **Accountability** through a public website that will display all data requests, their status, and reasoning if the request is denied

Q&A

- Would your organization be likely to request information from the data system?
- How would you use the information from the data system?

Read the specifics

User stories, the draft Research Agenda (including proposed data elements), and other key documents available at:

cadatasystem.wested.org



[Meeting Information](#) ▾ [Group Member Biographies](#) ▾ [Public Comment](#) [Listserv](#) [Feedback](#) [Resources](#)

California Cradle-to-Career Data System

In 2019, the California State Legislature passed the [California Cradle-to-Career Data System Act](#), which sets out requirements for the development of a statewide data infrastructure. This data system will ensure that educational, workforce, financial aid, and social service information is fully leveraged to address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students from cradle to career.

Over the course of 2020, the California Governor's Office, with support from WestEd, will lead a process to design the first phase of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System. The recommended process will be documented in a report to the Department of Finance and the Legislature in December 2020. In July 2021, a second report will provide additional implementation specifications. Download an [overview](#) of the project, read a general [FAQ](#), or a technical FAQ.

WHAT TYPES OF INFORMATION WILL THE DATA SYSTEM PROVIDE?

The data system will provide information that helps more students attain their educational, career, and life goals. The system will be designed with privacy and security of state data as the top priority. By securely connecting data that schools, colleges, social service agencies, financial aid providers, and employers already collect, it will be easier to:

- Identify the types of supports that help more students learn, stay in school, prepare for college, graduate, and secure a job
- Provide information that teachers, advisors, 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
- Support research on improving policies from birth through career

Summaries of the types of information that will be available to the public and prioritized for research studies are available [here](#).

See how linked information can help students attain their goals [here](#) and download an infographic that shows how the proposed Cradle-to-Career Data System would address specific student challenges [here](#).



Resources

- Website: <https://cadatasystem.wested.org/>
- Feedback: <https://cadatasystem.wested.org/feedback>
- Join our listserv: <https://cadatasystem.wested.org/listserv>
- All meetings are open to the public, have time allotted for public comment, and are held via Zoom.
- Questions? Email Kathy Booth kbooth@wested.org or LeAnn Fong-Batkin at lfongba@wested.org.