# College Access and Success New Research on Statewide College Outcomes and District Approaches for Improvement

Webinar
March 26, 2020
Moderator: Heather Hough, Executive Director, PACE



### **Panelists**



Kramer Cohen UC Davis



Alexandria Hurtt UC Davis



Michal Kurlaender UC Davis



Jenny Singh
California Department of
Education





Investigating California students' college and career readiness and postsecondary pathways

Note: The research reported here was supported through funding from the the College Futures Foundation, College Board, and the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, through Grant R305E150006 to the Regents of the University of California. We also thank the California Department of Education and the College Board for providing the data necessary for this analysis. The opinions expressed are those of the authors alone and do not represent the views of the funders or of the agencies providing data.



# Research Examining College Readiness, Enrollment, and Persistence



Where do California high school students enroll in college?



What efforts are being made to support students' college readiness?



What are the college persistence and completion patterns of California students?

# Where California High School Students Attend College Michal Kurlaender Sherrie Reed Kramer Cohen Matt Naven Paco Martorell Scott Carrell

December, 2018

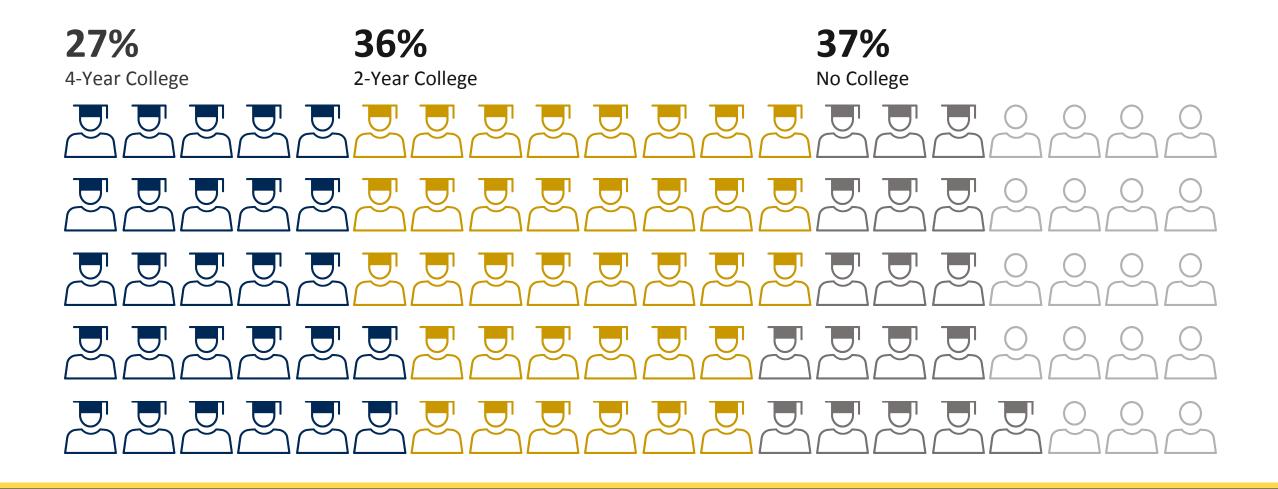


Unique data on the census of California high school students matched to college enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse.

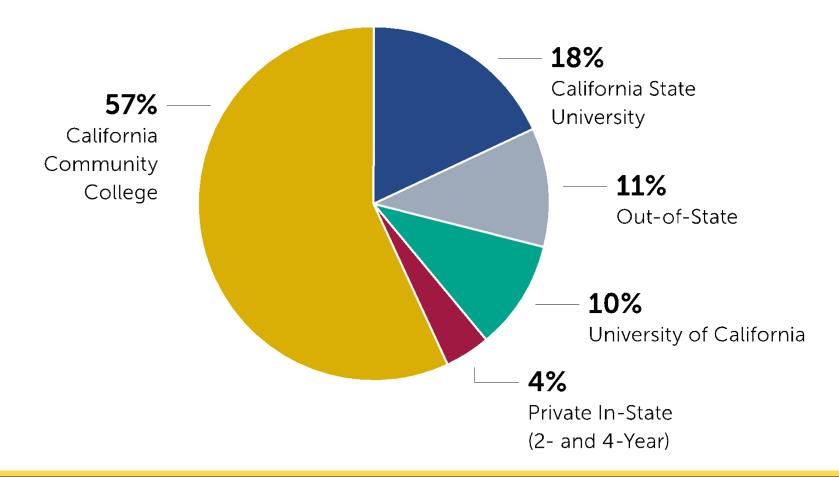
School level data on college enrollment now available on CDE's Data Quest.

dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/

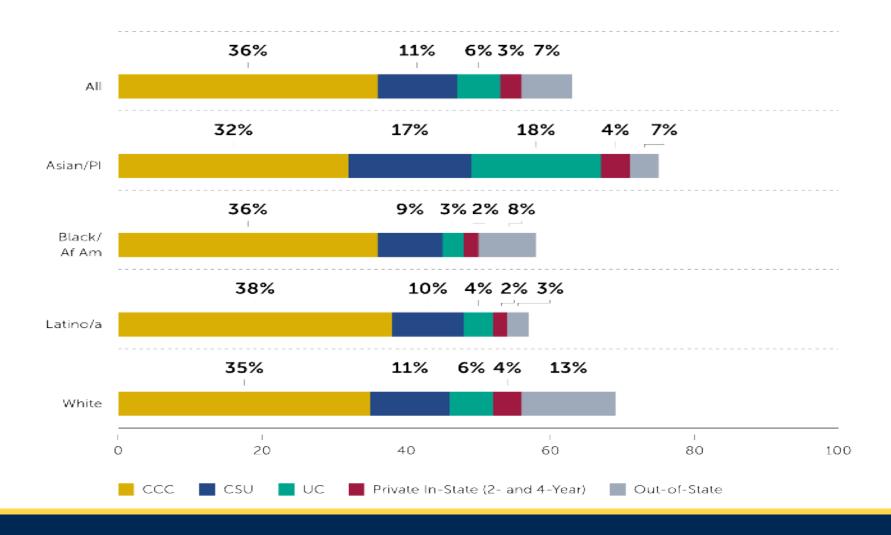
# 63% of students enroll in college



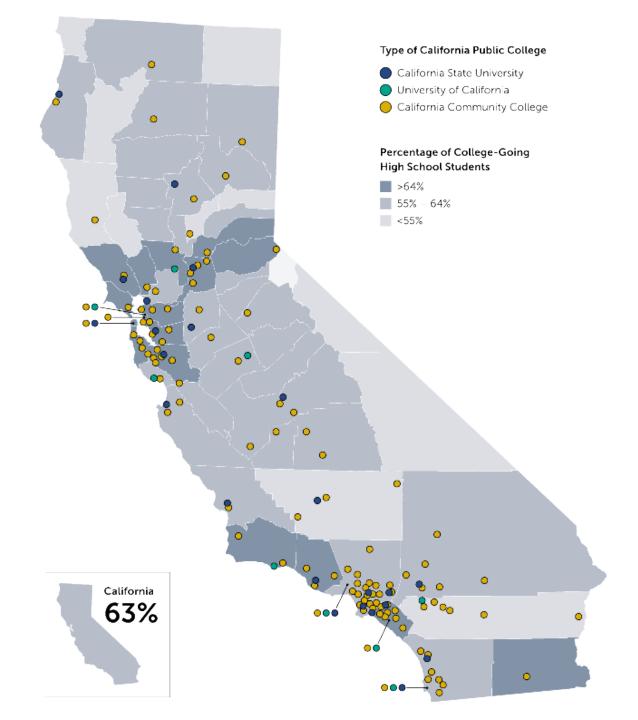
# Of the 63% of High School Students Who Enroll in College, 57% Enroll in Community College

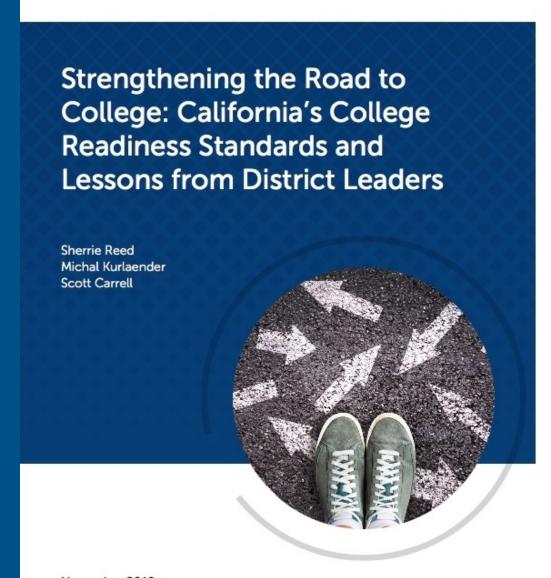


# **Enrollment Varies by Race/Ethnicity**



College
Enrollment
Varies
Across
Counties





"We've been talking about college readiness for two or three decades now in our institution. What does it really mean, and how does it actually look?"

November 2019



# Research Examining College Readiness



Based on state indicators, what does college readiness look like in California?



What efforts are being made at the district level to support students' readiness?

# Data and Methodology

#### State-level

- Quantitative
  - Student-level data
  - 2017-18 graduating cohort
- Two samples
  - California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)
  - College/Career Indicator (CCI)

#### District-level

- Qualitative
  - In-person focus groups
  - Audio and video interviews
  - Semi-structured protocol
- 20 school and district leaders across California
  - 8 public school districts
  - 1 county office of education

# Five Key Themes Emerged

- 1. Defining college and/or career readiness
- 2. Indicators of college and/or career readiness
- 3. Improving college preparation through coursework
- 4. Expanding the college readiness toolkit
- 5. Tracking college and career readiness

# Defining College and Career Readiness

Preparing for a career means you are also preparing for college

"We're finding that even in our local industry partnerships, the **students** need the same level of education and skill, even if they're planning to go straight into the work field or some vocational training, they need that same level of high rigor."

• Distinction between college readiness and college eligibility and enrollment

"Are you talking about college readiness as in the students have the **skills to be successful in college**? Or are you talking about that they meet the **criteria for college eligibility**? Because those are **two different [things]**."



#### College/Career Readiness

The College/Career measure shows how well local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools are preparing students for likely success after graduation. Only graduates can be classified as Prepared or Approaching Prepared. For schools and LEAs to demonstrate success on this state measure, high school graduates must meet at least one of the criteria in the Prepared level.

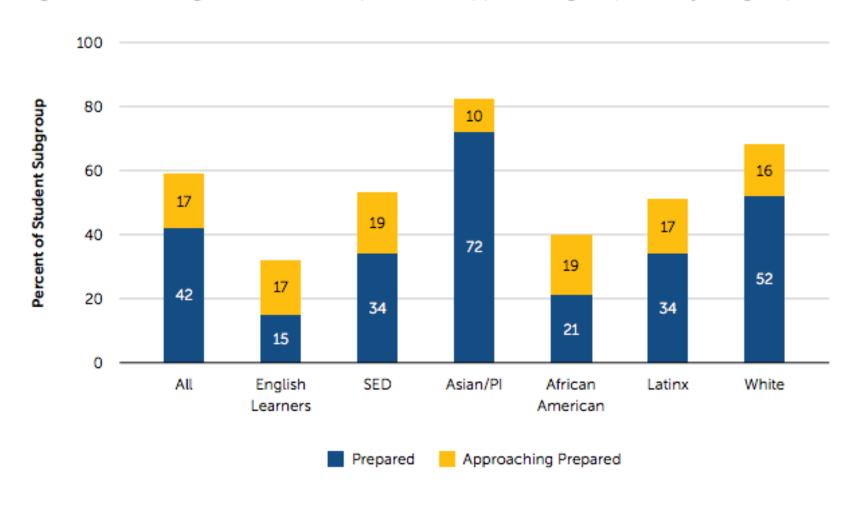
#### APPROACHING PREPARED NOT PREPARED PREPARED Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments: Score of Level 3 "Standard Met" or Smarter Balanced Summative Did not meet higher on both English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics Assessments: Score of Level 2 any of the "Standard Nearly Met" on both measures or did Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: Score of 3 or higher on two AP exams ELA and mathematics not graduate. International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams: Score of 4 or higher on two IB exams College Credit Courses: One semester or two quarters of College Credit Courses: Two semesters or three quarters of college coursework with a college coursework with a grade grade of C- or better in academic/CTE subjects where college credit is awarded of C- or better in academic/CTE State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB): SSB awarded and score of Level 3 or higher in ELA on subjects where college credit is the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments awarded Leadership/Military Science: Two years of Leadership/Military Science, score of Level 3 UC and CSU a-g requirements: or higher in ELA or math, and Level 2 "Standard Nearly Met" or higher in other subject area Complete a-g course requirements with a grade of C- or better University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) a-g requirements: Complete a-g course requirements with a grade of C- or better plus one of the Additional CTE Pathway: Pathway completion with a grade of C- or Criteria from the box below better in the capstone course Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathway: Pathway completion with a grade of C- or Leadership/Military Science: better in the capstone course plus one of the Additional Criteria from the box below Two years of Leadership/ Military Science Additional Criteria Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Scores: . Level 3 or higher on ELA and at least a Level 2 in mathematics, or Criteria Key Level 3 or higher on mathematics and at least a Level 2 in ELA One semester/two quarters of College Credit Courses with a grade of C- or better in Assessment academic/CTE subjects Score of 3 on one AP exam or score of 4 on one IB Exam (for a-g requirement only) Coursework Completion of CTE Pathway (for a-g requirement only)

# Indicators of College and Career Readiness

- Multiple measures used at the state and district level
  - College/Career Indicator (CCI), California School Dashboard
  - Coursework performance (i.e., A-G course completion)
  - Assessment performance (i.e., CAASPP)
  - College admissions exams (i.e., SAT, ACT)
  - Students' enrollment and persistence in college
- Different indicators suggest different levels of preparedness
- Vary by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, EL status

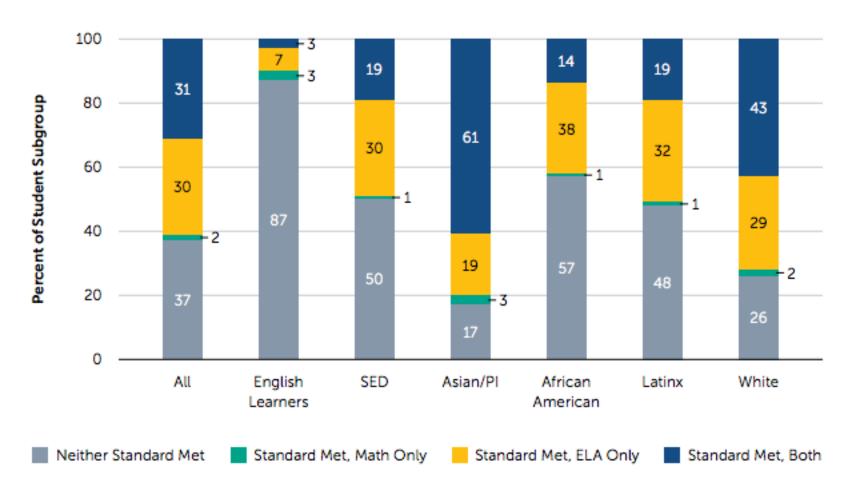
# Indicators of College and Career Readiness College/Career Readiness Indicator

Figure 1. Percentage of Students Prepared and Approaching Prepared, by Subgroup



# Indicators of College and Career Readiness Assessment Performance

Figure 3. Student Performance on the 11th Grade Smarter Balanced Assessments, by Subgroup



#### A-G Courses

"Our students who graduate with us are by [and] large graduating A-G eligible. We have had that as part of our expectations for all of our graduates since 2003."

#### **Dual Enrollment**

"The process to get a student enrolled... is very hard and it creates a lot of obstacles for the students, and the students just don't have the means to get to [their local community college], or they don't quite understand the process; [it] is just so difficult. So, that creates frustration on the student's part and the students will just kind of unfortunately give up."

#### Advanced Placement

"I've actually seen students receive the most opportunity for college access by the scores on their AP exams... It seems to me like it's the perfect mixture between rigorous coursework on a regular basis, followed with that demonstration of their ability in a formal assessment format."

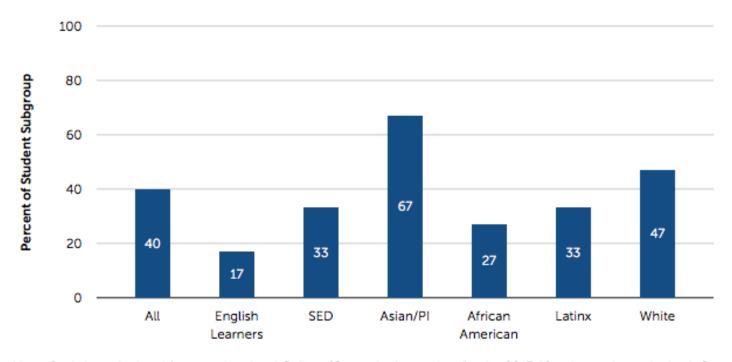
#### **Career Technical Education**

"We want every student [to] have a postsecondary plan... it can be trade school, it can be community college, it can be military or a four-year university, but we've been very strategic in developing our CTE programs [so] that they meet local economic demands... companies that are tripping over themselves literally to hire our kids."

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Figure 5. Percentage of Students Successfully Completing A-G Coursework, by Subgroup



Note: Statistics calculated from student-level College/Career Indicator data for the 2017-18 cohort using only the A-G completion indicator. Analytical sample includes all students statewide.

**Table 3.** Percentage of Students *Prepared* or *Approaching Prepared* on the CCI Pathways, by Subgroup

	All	English Learners	SED	Asian/PI	African American	Latinx	White		
Prepared	42	15	34	72	21	34	52		
Approaching Prepared	17	17	19	10	19	17	16		
Individual Pathways									
SBAC (scores of 3+ in ELA and Math)	26	5	17	59	10	16	37		
IB (2 exams with score of 4+)	1	0	1	2	0	1	1		
AP (2 exams with score of 3+)	14	3	8	42	4	8	20		
College Credit (2 semesters C- or better)	4	2	3	4	2	3	5		
A-G Completion +1 criteria	34	10	27	63	18	27	42		
CTE + 1 criteria	8	3	7	12	4	6	10		
State Seal of Biliteracy +SBAC	9	3	8	2	2	9	8		
Military Science/Leadership + SBAC	1	0	0	1	0	0	0		
Total Number of Students in Subgroup	518,317	73,613	351,486	50,211	34,021	272,753	124,294		

Note: Statistics calculated from student-level College/Career Indicator data for the 2017-18 cohort. Analytical sample includes all students statewide. Rates in each pathway calculated based on criteria for *Prepared* in Table 2.

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The Center for Community College Leadership and Research

### A Leg Up on College

The Scale and Distribution of Community College Participation Among California High School Students

By Elizabeth Friedmann, Michal Kurlaender, Alice Li, and Russell Rumberger

#### An Effective Onramp, But Not Open to All

Research shows that dual enrollment—a practice in which high school students take college courses while they are still in high school—has multiple benefits for students, high schools and colleges. Researchers found that California high school students take college courses at a rate higher than the national average. But there are significant differences in college course-taking by race and socioeconomic status. Access to dual enrollment, an important on-ramp to college and its benefits, is not equal.



**12.6**%

of California high schoolers take community college courses



82%

of California high schools have *no* students enrolled in community college courses

#### **Career Technical Education**

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# Expanding the College Readiness Toolkit



Start early

"We implement that curriculum **starting from middle school**. And it embeds that **college knowledge gradually** through students as they progress through middle school. And then once they are in high school, we talk about the four-year graduation plan, we introduce the A-G requirements, we introduce what college application requirements are."



PSAT & test prep

"Smarter Balanced leaves us with a little bit of a hole in the middle, right between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. So we tend to **look** at other assessments along the way... We use PSAT score and eligibility index information to help kids get a better gauge of how they're doing."



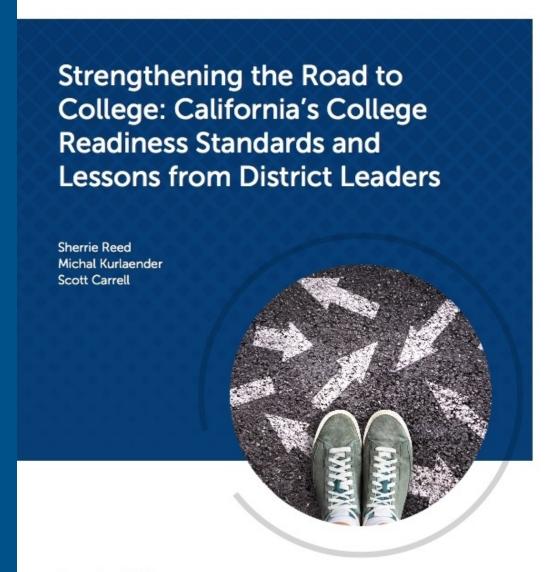
Role of counselors

"We work with Cash for College. They come out to [support] families with filling out FAFSA... we want to get 100 percent to fill out the FAFSA [and] college applications... there is a big push from our counselors and college coordination specialist..."



**Engaging community** 

"We're very public about **looking at the data** and doing it regularly, twice a year, sharing with our board, **sharing with our community**, [and] our teachers."



"We're lifting up the entire community and creating a condition for future economic prosperity... I think that's a big deal.

This is the real passion of the work."

November 2019



New Research:

College
Persistence
&
Completion



Attendance patterns



Degree completion



Time to degree

# Data and Sample

#### Data

- California Department of Education
  - 11th graders who took CST
    - 2009, 2010, 2011
- National Student Clearinghouse
  - 2010 2018

### Samples

- All (presumed) high school graduates
  - 2010, 2011, 2012
  - Who took CST as 11<sup>th</sup> graders
- High school graduates who attend college within 3 semesters of graduation date

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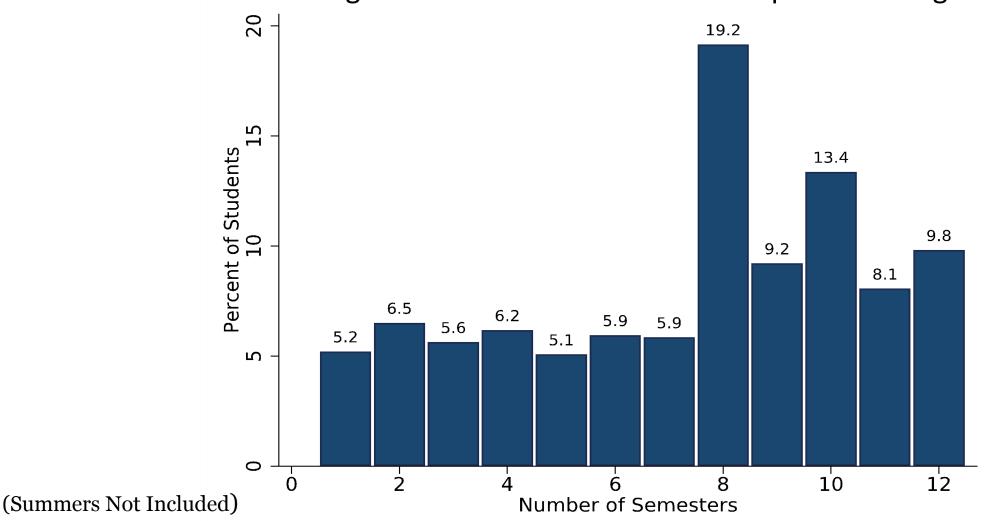
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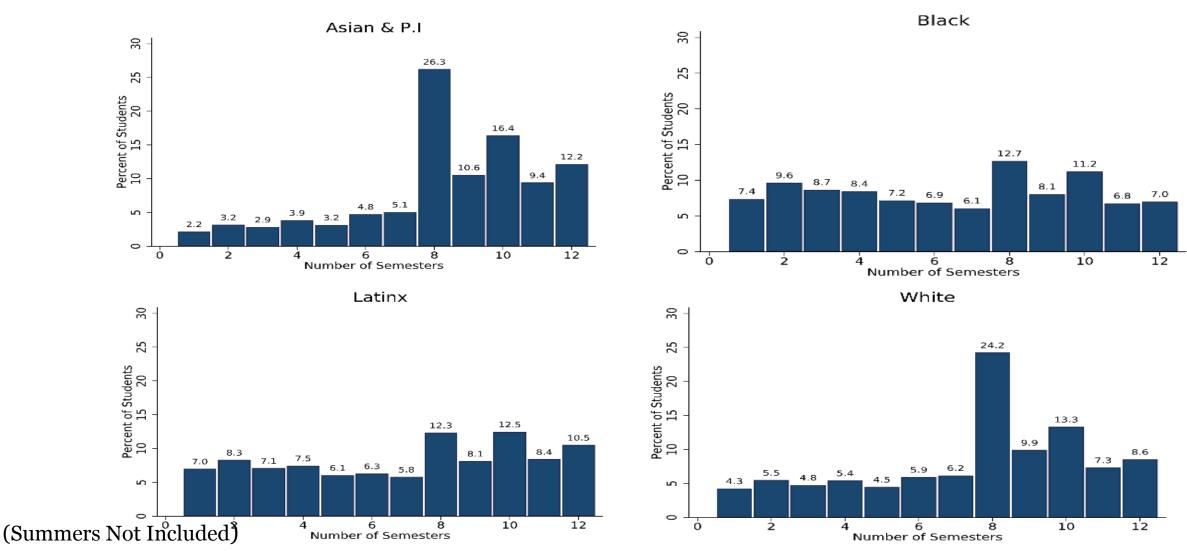
### Percent of Students by Semesters Enrolled in College



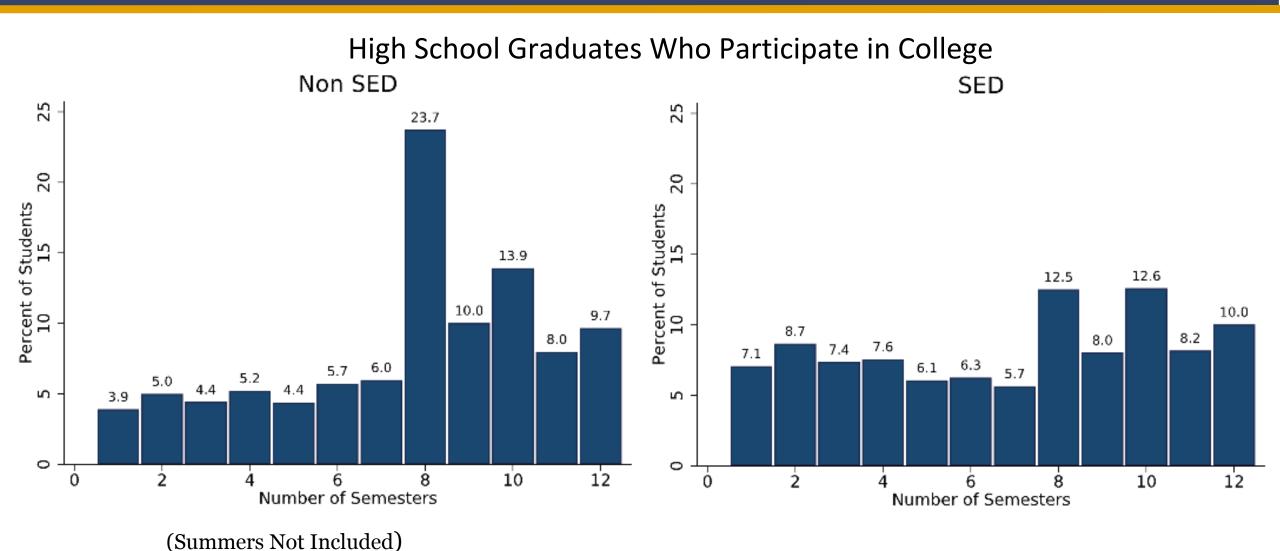


# Percent of Students by Semesters Enrolled in College

#### High School Graduates Who Participate in College

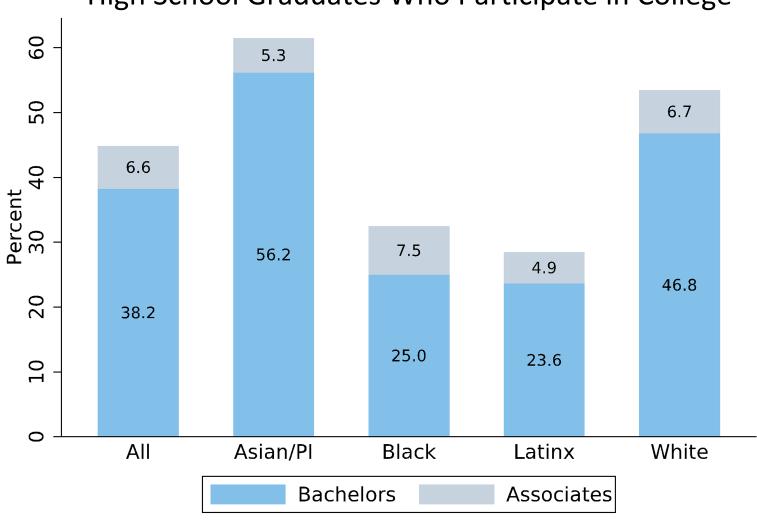


# Percent of Students by Semesters Enrolled in College



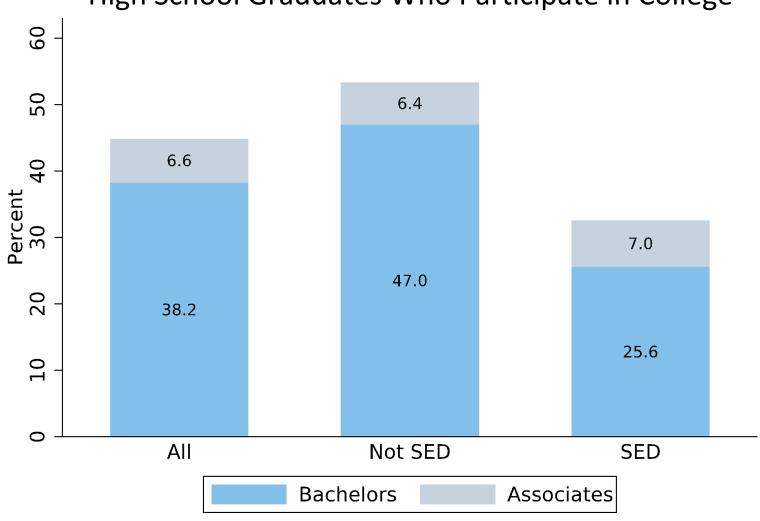
# Degree Obtainment, by Race





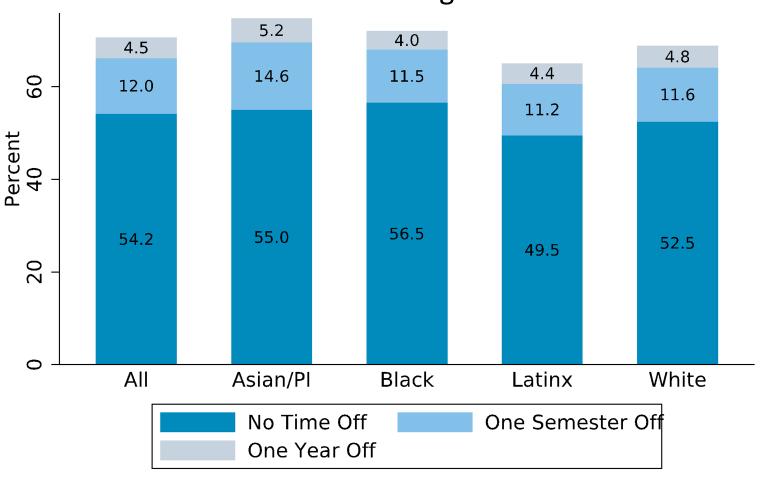
# Degree Obtainment, by SED





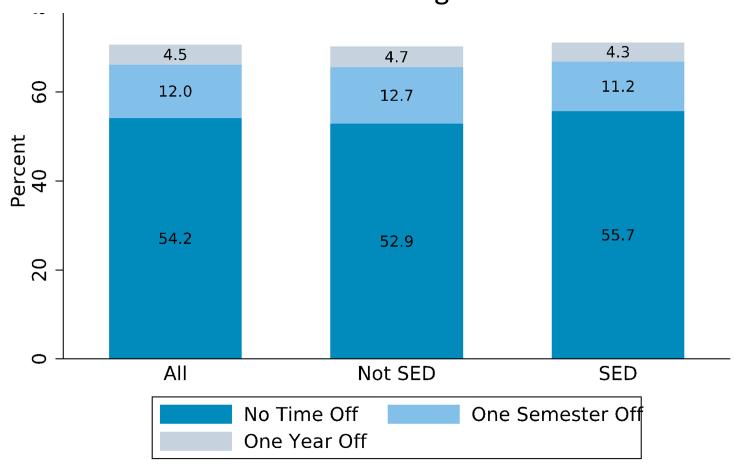
# College Stop-out Patterns for Students Not Earning a Degree in Six Years

High School Graduates Who Participate in College, but Do Not Obtain a Degree in Six Years



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#### MORE TO COME...

New Research:

College
Persistence
&
Completion

- Additional attendance patterns
  - Multi-institutional attendance
- Degree completion
  - Types of degrees
  - Majors
- Time-to-degree
- Regional focus
- Patterns by key sub-groups

# Thank you!

- California Department of Education
  - Ryan Fuller
  - Jonathan Isler
  - Ryan Lam
  - Jenny Singh
- Institute of Education Sciences
  - Allen Ruby
- College Board
  - Jessica Howell
  - Scott Hill

- University of California, Davis
  - Scott Carrell
  - Paco Martorell
  - Sherrie Reed
  - Derek Rury
  - Iwunze Ugo
- College Futures Foundation
  - Maureen Carew

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### **Next PACE Webinar**

### Toward the Development of Equity Indicators for California



Register for this webinar on a recent landmark National Academies report on educational equity. Christopher Edley, Jr., Michal Kurlaender, and Sean Reardon discuss how equity indicators could be operationalized for California.



Register at www.edpolicyinca.org/events

