

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 379
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Cradle-to-Career Data System - AB 99 (Irwin)

Dear Chair O'Donnell,

As advocates for higher education access, affordability, and equity, TICAS would like to express its strong support for the California Cradle-to-Career Data System. By linking California's existing education, workforce, financial aid, and social service information, policymakers, educators, and the public will be empowered to better address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students throughout the state. Given the disproportionate impacts associated with the COVID-19 crisis, the data system will be critical in identifying and targeting resources where they are most needed to close equity gaps.

More than 170 stakeholders from 15 state agencies, numerous educational institutions, research and policy organizations, and community groups came together over the course of the last year to develop recommendations which will shape the California Cradle-to-Career Data System. The proposed data system will be a neutral source of high-quality information, paired with tools to help a range of stakeholders to utilize the information.

With the establishment of the data system, California will be able to:

- Provide public tools enabling students and adult learners to navigate transitions from K-12 to higher education, as well as the education-to-employment pipeline;
- Identify the types of support services that help more students learn, stay in school, prepare for college, graduate, and secure a job;
- Assess data from K-12 and all higher education segments;
- Help agencies plan for and improve educational, workforce, and health and human services programs; and,
- Support research on improving public policies that shape us from our early education into our careers.

The data system will not only assist in identifying student needs and inequitable disparities, it will contribute immensely to our state's economic recovery in the years to come. TICAS strongly supports the creation of the data system, and requests your AYE vote when AB 99 is heard in the Assembly Education Committee.

Sincerely,



Angela Perry
Senior Policy Analyst

CC: Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
Members, Assembly Education Committee