What’s Next: Designing a Cradle-to-Career Data System for an Equitable California

California is beginning its work on a new Cradle-to-Career data system, aligning education and workforce data after years of being one of just a few states without this critical tool.

Use Data to Inform Systemic, Asset & Equity-Oriented Change
A chief goal of creating the data system must be to do no harm to communities of color and identifying and remedying racial equity gaps through systems change.

Produce Accessible, Public-Facing Results and Tools
Prioritize the creation of public-facing tools and resources on the same timeline as the launch of the SLDS.

Protect Student Privacy
Privacy experts must consult with and address concerns of all students, but especially those of undocumented students and families. Steps must be taken to ensure data will not be used for law enforcement purposes.

Count All Students and Disaggregate Data
Students in all types of schools and colleges must be included; data must be disaggregated, including Asian American and Pacific Islander populations across the state.

Engage Students and Families
Students and families must be meaningfully at the table and updated throughout this process as the workgroup and advisory groups convene.

The Result: A strong, longitudinal data system covering preschool through the workforce, allowing California to:

- Evaluate reforms and interventions
- Ensure all students’ progress and success
- Identify roadblocks to success and inequities in the system
- Create and implement effective solutions
- Track state progress toward goals

For more on why equity is crucial in the cradle-to-career data system, what’s happening with the system’s design, and how you can take action, visit www.eddataforthepeople.org