

THE EDUCATION TRUST—WEST POLICY AGENDA

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

PROBLEM:

Our state suffers from deep inequities that our colleges and universities often exacerbate. Access to college in California is stratified by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, and too many institutions of higher education fail students of color and low-income students at alarming rates. **We recommend state policymakers make progress on the following:**

- **Strengthen Promise Programs and incentivize K-12 and postsecondary partnerships that support college access and success.**
 - Continue to identify strategies that incentivize more sustainable, locally-coordinated college access and success partnerships.
- **Update California's Master Plan for Higher Education and broaden access for California's growing and more diverse population.**
 - Update the Master Plan so it reflects contemporary demographic and economic trends and needs.
 - Guarantee a spot at the CSU and UC for all eligible students and strengthen cross-segmental goals for transfer, completion, and equity.
 - Repeal Proposition 209's ban on affirmative action and improve facilities to expand opportunities and success for all students.
- **Effectively implement new assessment and placement policies.**
 - Provide resources to districts and colleges to effectively launch courses with added support to help ease the transition to college.
 - Make available and track the necessary data to monitor assessment and placement reforms.
- **Promote seamless opportunities for degree completion and transfer from community colleges to universities.**
 - Support coordination of leaders across postsecondary segments to ensure college pathway policies are implemented effectively and equitably.
 - Support the development of clearly articulated pathways aligned with CSU and UC transfer requirements that provide academic and other supports.
- **Improve postsecondary success.**
 - Ensure base funding for all three public college systems is adequate, direct additional resources to institutions serving high concentrations of needy students, and implement equity-focused student success funding models.
 - Increase funding for grants to institutions that incentivize innovative evidence-based practices, in addition to conducting rigorous evaluations of innovations and publicly report results disaggregated by race and income.

Our colleges and the state are falling short on commitments made and upheld to previous generations. At a time when our state is more diverse than ever, serious inequities plague higher education in California.

To read the full ETW Policy Agenda visit: <http://edtrustwest.org/policyagenda2018>



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