

# Cal-PASS Transitions

California Partnership for Achieving Student Success  
*sharing data, sparking inter-segmental dialogue, increasing student success*

Volume 1

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## AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVING EDUCATION

**Cal-PASS is a K-16 information sharing initiative that collects, analyzes, and shares student data in order to track performance and improve success from elementary school through university. The primary impetus for Cal-PASS is to reduce barriers between the segments and promote seamless transition for students.**

By establishing a Cal-PASS regional consortium, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities can learn the answers to questions such as:

- ▶ How do my students perform when they leave? Were they well prepared for the next level?
- ▶ Are adjustments in curriculum necessary to improve their preparation?
- ▶ How many students earned degrees? In what majors? In how many years?

With this data, inter-segmental, discipline-based faculty teams examine curriculum and

instructional practices. This examination often leads to appropriate recommendations for improvement. As a result, students will be better prepared and more likely to succeed in the next phase of their education, and institutions will benefit by having students who will achieve greater outcomes.

Cal-PASS began in 1998 in the Grossmont - Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD) under the leadership

of Dr. Omero Suarez, Chancellor, and Dr. Brad Phillips, Senior Director, Institutional Research, Planning and Academic Services. Dr. Phillips is the project's statewide leader.

Cal-PASS is supported by a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and has been endorsed by:

- AVID
- Education Trust-West
- State Assembly and Senate Education Committee Members Dede Alpert, Jack Scott and Carol Liu
- WestEd

### Rapidly Expanding

What started as a pilot data-sharing agreement between the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and San Diego State University expanded to involve nine community colleges, three public universities, two private universities, and 14 high school districts in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Today, 350 institutions are members of Cal-PASS - across 21 counties and including one-fourth of all community colleges in California.

#### NEW PARTICIPANTS

Sacramento    Sonoma    Fresno    Merced    Riverside / San Bernardino

#### IN THE PROCESS OF JOINING

El Dorado    Los Angeles    Napa    Placer    Sonoma  
Fresno    Marin    Santa Clara    Sacramento    Yolo  
Lake    Mendocino    Nevada    Santa Barbara

# HOW DOES CAL-PASS WORK?

## *The First Steps*

After a region has agreed to form a *Cal-PASS* consortium and all participating institutions have signed a memorandum of understanding, a consortium representative gathers, accesses, and submits data according to an approved schedule. A *Cal-PASS* database administrator oversees the operation of a \$300,000 data server. Located at the office of the Chancellor for the California Community Colleges, it stores millions of encrypted records provided by *Cal-PASS* member institutions.

## *Reports*

With today's advanced computer and software technologies, the *Cal-PASS* server can process large quantities of data quickly, and because of strict safeguards, student confidentiality is ensured. All *Cal-PASS* data and process meet Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements. Using this data, institutions can examine the following:

*Demographics:* Statistics and comparisons based on student ethnicity, transfer status, and percentage of transfers from

high school to community college or a four-year institution.

*Performance:* Information such as the length of time it took the student to graduate, a cohort's grade point average compared to others, and student overall preparation.

*Program Review:* Tracking of enrollment and performance in comparative classes during a specified time period ranging from one year to many years.

*Student Cohort Tracking:* Assessment of student progress from grade school to high school to a two-year or four-year institution, including units completed, grade point average each semester, and enrollment over multiple semesters.

*High School Transition* • This assessment can reveal if students are repeating courses or if there is regression in their coursework.

*Inter-segmental Transfer:* 2+2 outcomes, including high school preparation and subsequent success in college/university coursework.

## **JOINING CAL-PASS**

Inspired by its early success and its remarkable potential to provide K-16 teachers the means to help their students be better prepared as they pursue their education, *Cal-PASS* is committed to replicating and establishing data sharing consortia throughout California.

There is no fee to become a member of *Cal-PASS*, and *Cal-PASS* staff is available to assist you with the development of a consortium in your area. We hope that your institution participates in this worthwhile project. **For further information, please contact the project director, Dr. Brad Phillips, by phone at (619) 644-7736 or by email at [BPhillips@cal-pass.org](mailto:BPhillips@cal-pass.org).**

*"The conversations that arise from the data sharing are what's crucial. As educators, we've wanted this kind of information for over 15 years. When we're able to review true data, we're given the tools to really integrate curriculum and identify its strengths and weaknesses."*

Brian Marshall  
Superintendent  
La Mesa-Spring Valley  
School District

*"Cal-PASS provides a unique and invaluable opportunity to engage in sophisticated data-driven decision making."*

Russlyn Ali  
Executive Director  
The Education Trust-West

*"Cal-PASS has given us a way to change the definition of success from how many students graduate to how well they are progressing to higher levels of education."*

Robert Fore  
Superintendent  
Merced Union  
High School District

