Modernizing California’s Education Data System

November 29, 2018

Jacob Jackson & Kevin Cook

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Higher education is critical to California’s future

- California has invested billions of dollars to improve public education over the past decade
- Many educational outcomes have improved
- But questions remain about key student transition points
  - For example, how are students faring when they go from K–12 to college, or from community college to a four-year institution
California's education data systems are fragmented

- Each education system collects and analyzes a lot of data
- Without connecting student records across systems, California cannot answer important questions about:
  - The educational pipeline
  - State investments in higher education
  - How education pays off in terms of work and earnings
  - The effectiveness of certain programs
California would benefit from a statewide longitudinal data system

- Better data can lead to better:
  - Feedback and efficiency for institutions
  - Evaluation and coordination for the state
  - Local coordination among institutions

- Linking student records across systems has been done effectively
  - Does stacking credentials in health fields provide economic benefits?
  - Does the Early Assessment Program reduce the need for remediation?

- However, linking data across systems is difficult and rare
Most states have a statewide integrated data system
California should build a flexible centralized repository
Governance of the system is important to its success

- Other states’ lessons in governance of a data system can serve as models for California
  - Promote participation of educational segments
  - Ensure transparency, security, and privacy
  - Expand capacity by working with regional partnerships and external researchers
  - Inform a new higher education coordinating body
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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.