



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

PPIC HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

A Decade of Impact

Higher education is fundamental to California's future. Attaining a bachelor's degree is a primary pathway to opportunity for residents and a key driver of economic health for the state. In 2016, we launched the PPIC Higher Education Center (HEC) to focus on this crucial topic. Our goals were to share timely and important research, connect with decision makers, and create a common set of facts and a shared understanding around key issues.

The PPIC Higher Education Center Mission

To advance practical solutions that enhance educational opportunities for all of California's students—improving lives and expanding economic growth across the state.

Over the past 10 years, the PPIC Higher Education Center has been an essential source of independent and nonpartisan facts and analysis. The center has spotlighted critical issues and shaped solutions to major challenges across California's public higher education systems. Pathbreaking work includes:

Defining the state's pressing need for college graduates.

PPIC's research has shown that California's future economy depends on ever-larger numbers of educated workers. At a time of economic uncertainty, PPIC's work has defined the value of a college degree—for individuals and the state. This influential work has changed the conversation about the importance of helping more Californians earn a bachelor's degree.

Setting ambitious graduation targets.

The center's work informed new graduation goals set by the University of California and California State University systems, ensuring that more Californians—especially those from historically underrepresented groups—had access to and success in higher education. While challenges remain, graduation rates are on the rise.

Reforming education pathways at California's community colleges.

Developmental education—sometimes known as remediation—was holding large numbers of students back. PPIC quantified the extent of the problem, providing evidence for successful reform efforts. The result? Dramatically higher completion rates in key math and English classes that paved the way for advancing in college.

Breaking down data silos.

PPIC was an early partner with the state and other organizations to advocate for linking data across state agencies to understand and improve student progress. PPIC led a collaborative effort to inform the establishment of California's Cradle-to-Career data system, now up and running.

We are very grateful to our many funders and supporters, including the Sutton Family Fund, who provided critical seed funding for the center.

[PPIC.ORG/HIGHER-EDUCATION](https://ppic.org/higher-education)

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