Access to Student Level Wage Data
2026-27 Regional Priority
SDICCCA September 2026 Update

Access to student-level wage data is currently unavailable to colleges and regional CTE & Workforce Research practitioners. Without this access, we remain unable to fully assess the outcomes of investments, programs, and services on student success.

The Regional Consortium has identified advocacy for access to student-level wage data as a 2026-27 priority and is seeking support, and direct engagement, from local college leadership, community partners, and regional and statewide groups.

"The Year of Wage Data." The California Community College Chancellor's Office has declared 2026-27 the "year of wage data" and are prioritizing the exploration of multiple potential avenues for addressing this challenge including requesting support on legislative action. **Community Colleges and regional partners throughout the state are being encouraged to increase advocacy for access to student-level post-completion wage data.**

We've been encouraged to:

1. Explore direct contracting with the EDD for more immediate expanded local access
    a. *Update: A pilot was funded in 25-26 for direct contracting with the EDD. This pilot resulted in poor data returns and while the information was more detailed than prior data, access to student-level insights was still denied.*
2. Explore legislative advocacy to remove existing barriers that are preventing their office from distributing student-level wage data directly to community college districts.
    a. *Update: this is where the RC would like to focus for fall 2026*

Building Towards Legislative Advocacy:

SDICCCA Engagement & Messaging:

- SDICCCA regional leadership is requested to support coordinated, legislative approach.
- **This is not just a CTE issue. This is an all-college accreditation issue.**
    - ACCJC accreditation standards now require program level (**award level**) earnings data for all degrees and certificates (not just CTE) as well as enhanced transparency of program level outcomes with students and the community. Student-level, post-completion wage and employment data is needed at the district level to meet ACCJC requirements.
- Workforce Pell provides an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of the need for student-level wage data, but may not provide the full, local access required to meet ACCJC accreditation requirements.
- The "award level" distinction is critical to the success of our advocacy efforts; this requirement is not currently part of Chancellor's Office DataVista platform. DataVista defines Programs are defined as MIS course enrollments.

Coalition Building

- **Advocacy Letter** – a draft statement was developed in August for review and potential distribution to key stakeholders. *Key stakeholders include: College Senior Leadership, Accreditation leads, Institutional Effectiveness and Research leads, and CTE leadership, as well as community partners including, but not limited to Centers of Excellence, RP group (regional reps and statewide leads), CCCAOE and employer/industry partners*.

DRAFT STATEMENT

A core mission of the California Community Colleges is to strengthen California's workforce and advance economic mobility for its residents. To meet this mission, the community colleges need timely, secure access to comprehensive, student-level post-completion employment and wage outcomes.

Without timely access to employment and wage outcomes, evaluation is limited to enrollment, and dependent on data that are aggregated, delayed, or insufficiently flexible for rigorous local analysis.

California Community Colleges have lacked transparent, consistent access to the data needed to understand student outcomes after completion, undermining their ability to evaluate workforce pathways, strengthen student success, and demonstrate the value of a community college education. Community Colleges can determine who enrolls, who persists, who completes a credential, and who transfers, but are unable to assess whether the education provided leads to employment, wage progression, economic mobility, and other meaningful post-college outcomes.

Stewardship of public investment and students' right to know. Students deserve to know where educational pathways can lead. Families deserve reliable information when making consequential decisions about education and careers. Employers need education and training programs that respond to workforce needs. Policymakers and taxpayers deserve credible evidence about the outcomes of public investments. And Community Colleges need the information necessary to learn, improve, and be accountable for results.

Recommendation: Legislatively align post-completion wage reporting across CA institutions of higher education. Currently, the CSUs and UCs are mandated to provide access to student-level wage data to each local institution to support their local provision of annual insights into post-completion outcomes for student and community members at the program level. The CA Community College system has no equivalent mandate and lacks the authority to distribute student-level wage data to local community college districts for local analysis and evaluation.

ENDORSEMENTS/SIGNATURES

We, the undersigned, endorse the need for statewide action to ensure that California's community colleges have equitable, appropriate, secure, and timely access to post-completion employment and wage data. We urge state leaders, agency partners, policymakers, and the California Community Colleges system to work together to establish the policies, agreements, infrastructure, and statutory authority necessary to make these data available for responsible institutional improvement and public benefit.