

Using Data as an Equity Engine to Promote Inclusive Educational Systems

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SHEEO Communities of Practice:

Improving Equity and Opportunity Through Postsecondary Data

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Denver, CO

"...the reality is that the perceived value proposition that was once a constant for institutions of higher education becomes cloudier day by day, with just 6 in 10 Americans recently surveyed saying college is worth the time and money."

- Jason Wingard



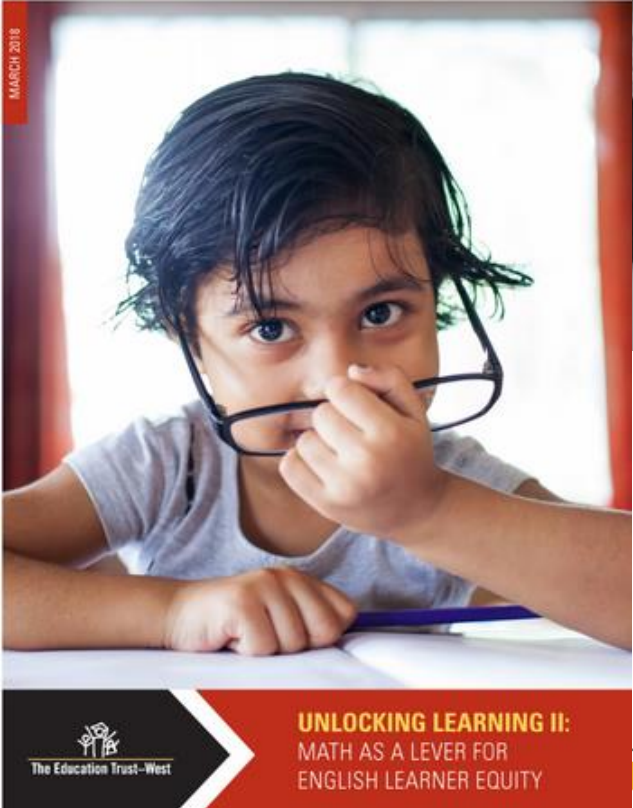
Our Mission

The Education Trust—West is a nonprofit educational equity organization focused on educational justice and closing achievement and opportunity gaps from preschool through college through research, data, policy analysis, and advocacy.



The Education Trust–West





662,000

Fewer undergraduates enrolled between spring 2021 and spring 2022

1.4 million

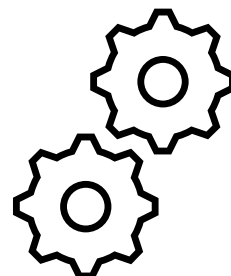
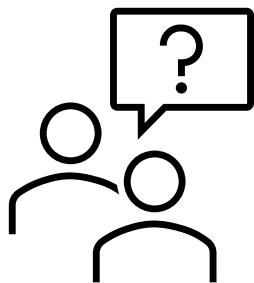
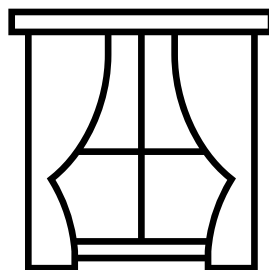
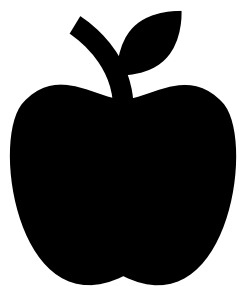
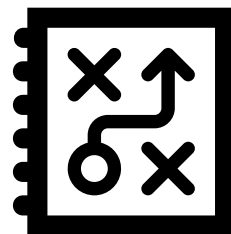
Fewer undergraduates enrolled since the start of the pandemic

Source: National Clearing House

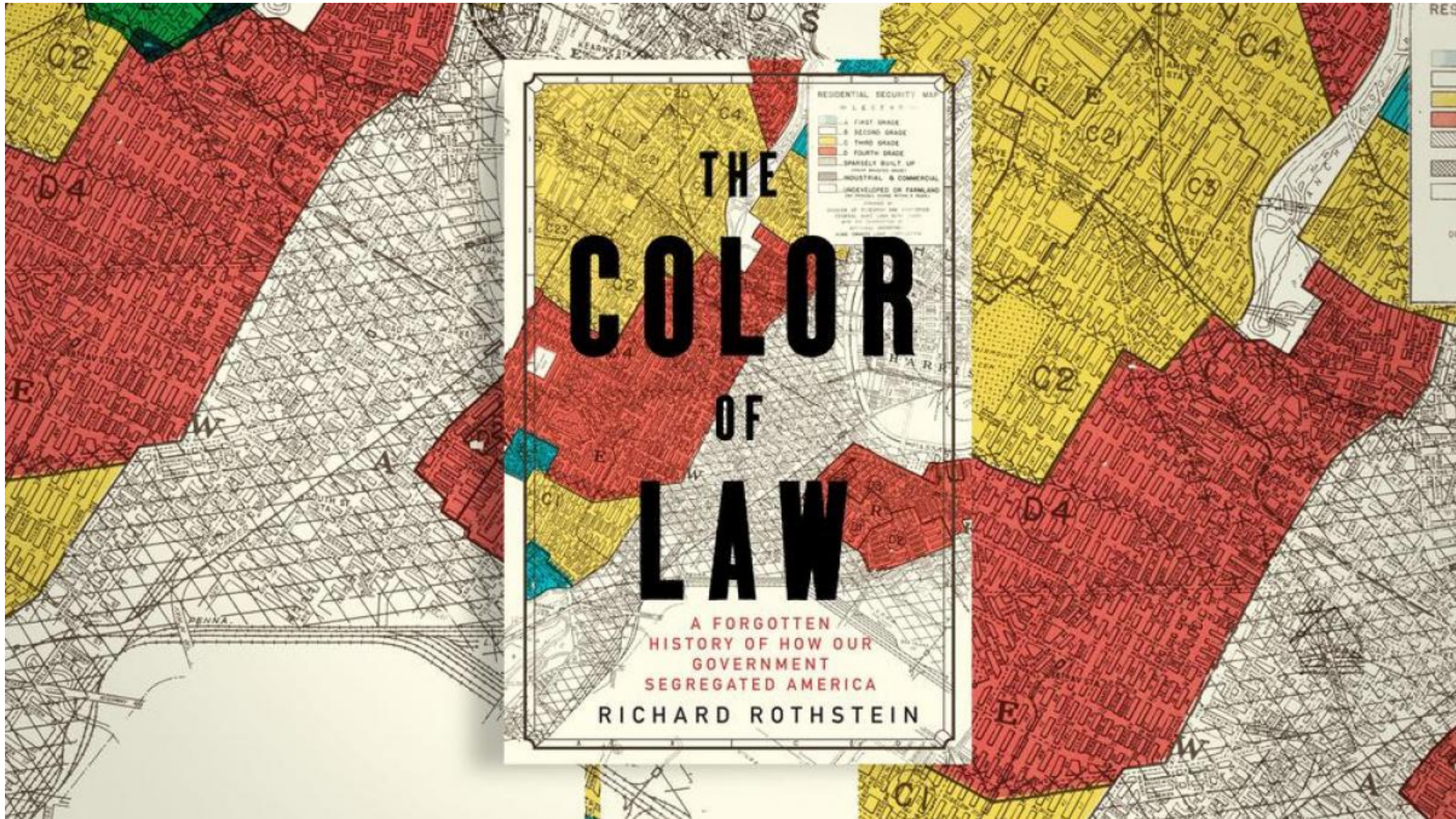








Why Data Matter





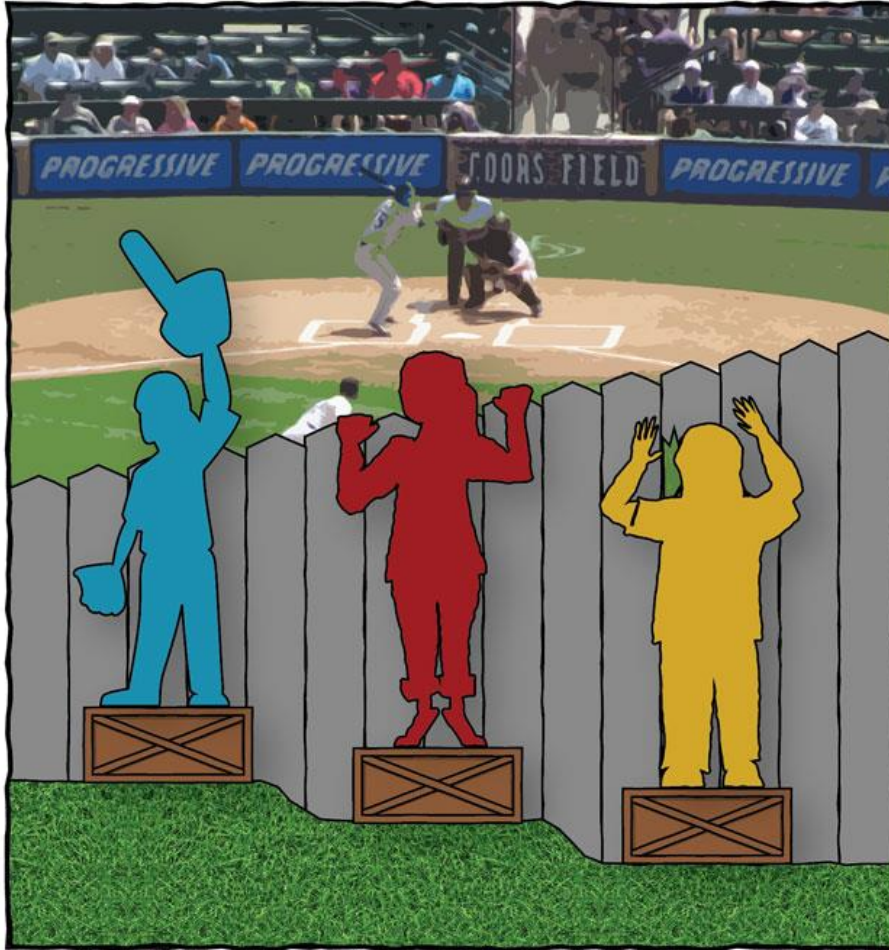
"Data has the potential to enhance educational opportunities for all students, but data alone does not guarantee equity."

- Mikaela Pitcan

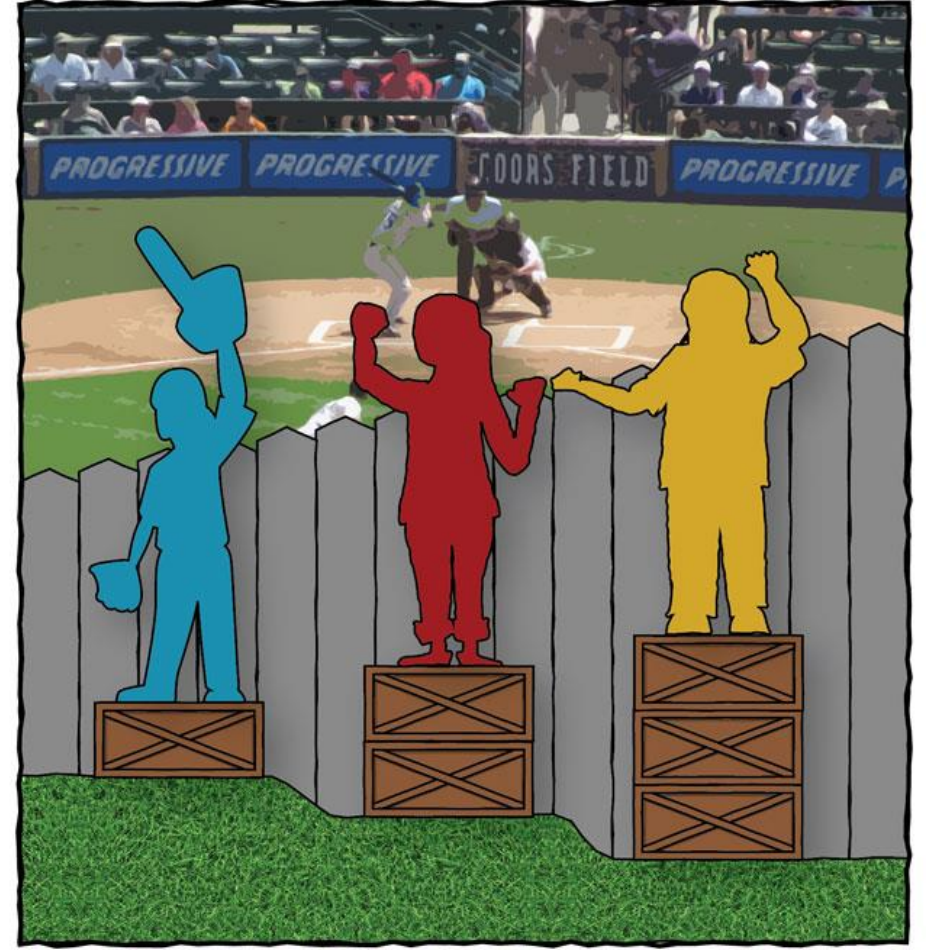


Data and Racial Equity in Education





EQUALITY



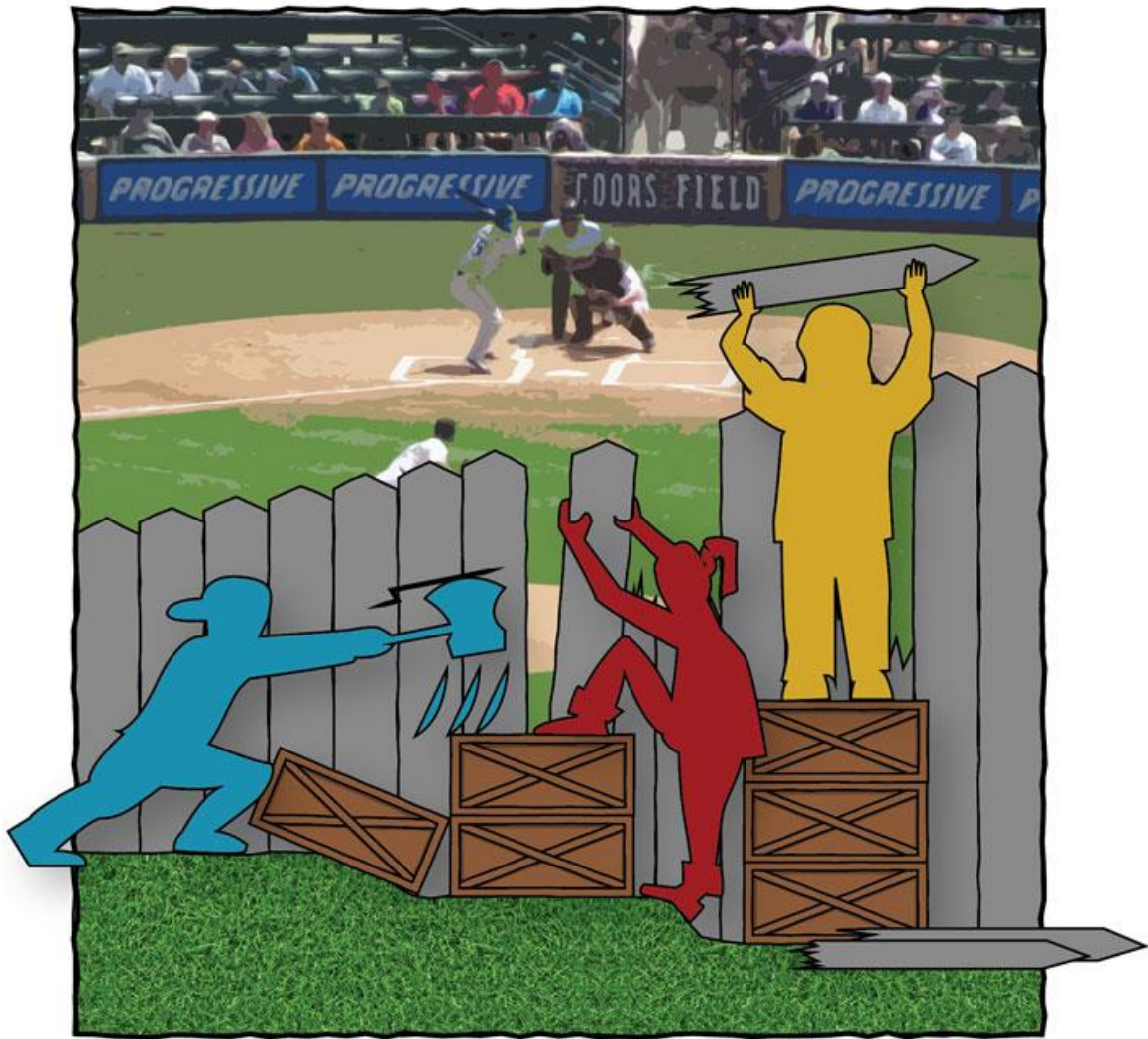
EQUITY



Cultural Organizing

Working for justice at the intersection of art, activism, education, and culture





JUSTICE



Cultural Organizing

Working for justice at the intersection of art, activism, education, and culture



Why A Racial Equity Lens Matters

- Can use data to address systemic issues impacting students
- Can use data to design interventions, policies, or programs eliminating barriers that affect certain groups
- Can use data to focus on ensuring all students have the support needed to succeed
- Can use data to illuminate ways to increase justice and fairness within procedures and processes



Advocacy Examples of Advancing Racial Equity Using Data



Supporting Student Parents at Fresno State



BRIGHT SPOT FROM THE FIELD:
IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING STUDENT PARENTS AT FRESNO STATE

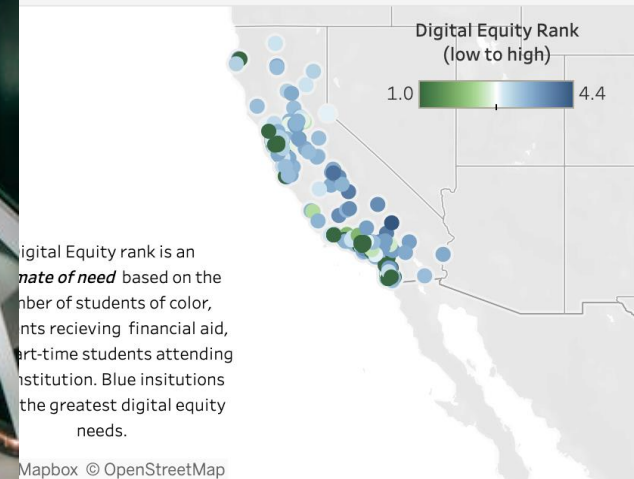


Mapping the Digital Divide in Higher Education



Mapping the Higher Education Digital Divide in California

Access to internet and technology and the impact of COVID-19 on California's higher education systems.



Digital Equity rank is an **indicator of need** based on the number of students of color, students receiving financial aid, part-time students attending institution. Blue institutions have the greatest digital equity needs.

Use the filters below to compare digital equity considerations across geographies, sectors, and individual institutions throughout the state.

Sector
(All) ▾

County
(All) ▾

Institution Name
(All) ▾

Mapbox © OpenStreetMap
Postsecondary Education Data System, 2020 (Accessed September 2020); The Education Trust - West, Higher Education



Systemwide & Institutional Examples



The Good News: You!



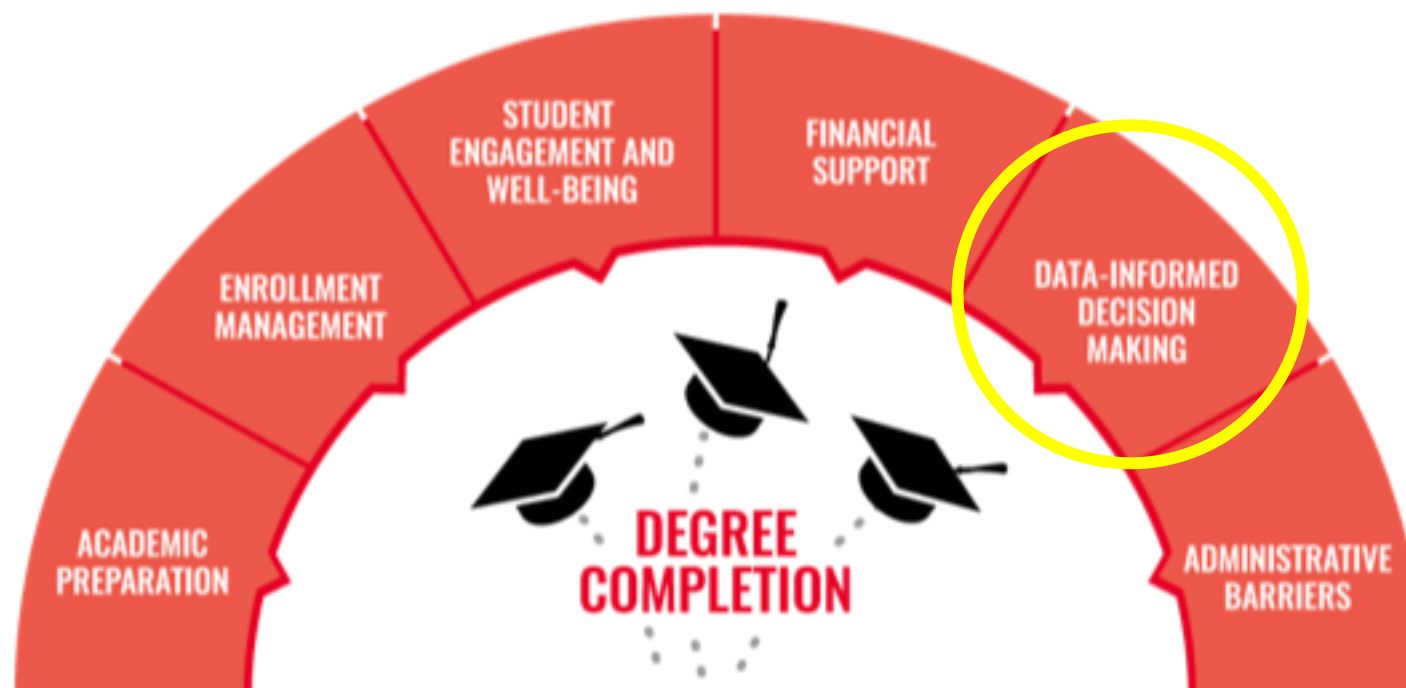
The California State University (CSU) Story



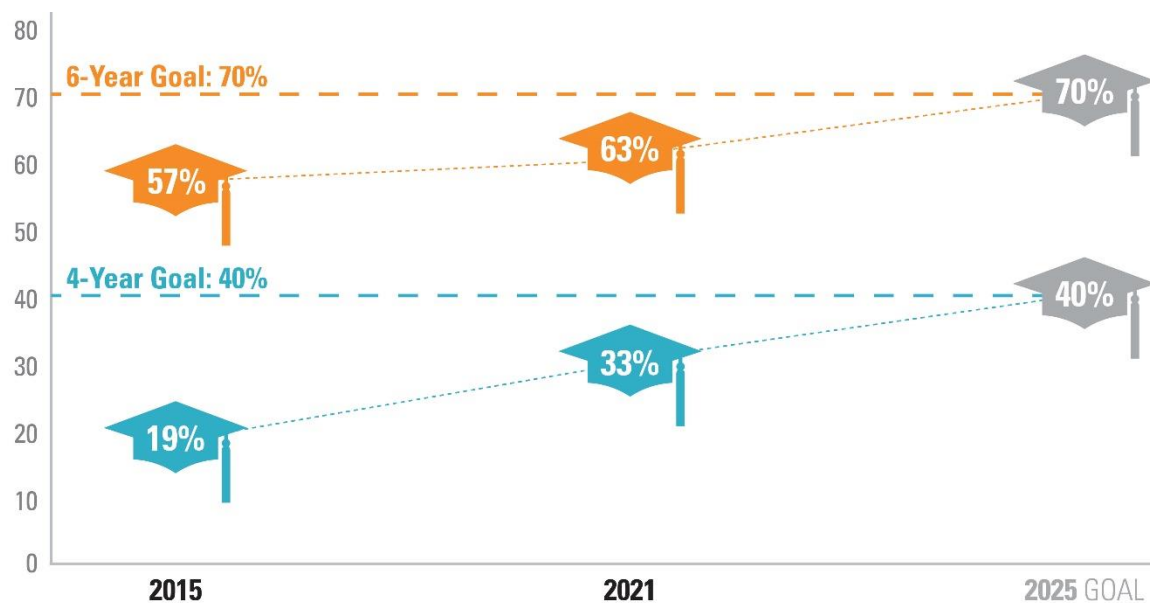
Graduation Initiative 2025



Graduation Initiative 2025

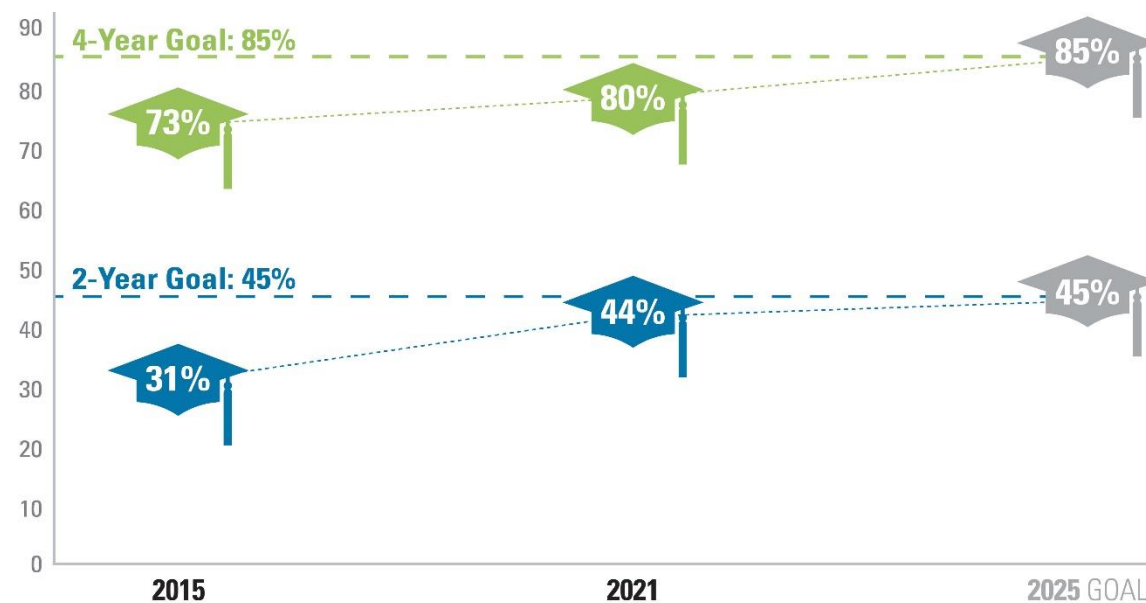


Graduation Initiative 2025



4-Year First-Time Students

6-Year First-Time Students



2-Year Transfer

4-Year Transfer



Graduation Initiative 2025

HIGHER EDUCATION

Cal State's Black students are falling behind other groups – and poor graduation data obscures the crisis



BY MIKHAIL ZINSHTEYN , JULY 12, 2022 UPDATED JULY 20, 2022



San Diego State University: Commitment

“A **great** university
doesn't lose almost
two-thirds of its
Latino freshmen
along the road
toward graduation”
- Emeritus President
Stephen Weber



San Diego University focused on...DATA!

Shared governance & shared ownership over solving the problem

Teams break down & analyze data

Analysis includes looking at pathways, course bottlenecks, and access to high-impact practices – and developing data-informed solutions



San Diego University: From 2002 to 2013

**Overall grad rate went
from 38% to 66%**

**Latino grad rate went
from 31% to 60%**



**If not now, when?
If not you, who?**

“Once I realized my job wasn’t simply about reporting, I started to harness the duty in my role and pushed people differently in our office around racial equity...”

-- Cyrus, Maryland Legislative Budget Agency



“As higher education data magicians, we have immense power and responsibility to surface data that can improve students’ opportunities, experiences, and outcomes, especially students who’ve been marginalized.”

-- Heather, Texas Systemwide Representative

“I used to think I had to come to my work as a sort of blank slate, but now I see that I have to ask questions of our system data that reflect my commitment to solving the challenges our students of color are facing when they come to us...and to tell or story”

-- Univ of California Regent



Equity-Minded Analytic Tips...

Collection

- Ensuring data allows us to understand how opportunities can differ
- Data disaggregation
- Intersectionality of experiences

Interpretation

- Why are disparities present?
- Accurately representing results
- Avoiding deficit-based thinking
- Opportunity gaps
- Including qualitative data (e.g. interviews, focus groups)

Use

- Data as a call to action
- Avoid symbolic changes
- Team-based, shared governance
- Don't shy away from difficult work
- Regular testing of changes
- Openness to critique







NICE STORY.

NOW SHOW ME THE





DATA



Stay In Touch

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 @chrisnellum

