The success of our state depends on our ability to ensure that all residents have access to a quality education. In California, blacks are 6% of the state’s population and make up significant number of residents in critical regions—including the greater metropolitan Los Angeles area, San Diego, and the Bay Area.

The data show that just over half of black students graduate from high school, few are prepared to attend a four-year university, and fewer still actually enroll in a California college. In fact, since 1990 there has been a decline in the rate at which black students enroll directly in a California public college or university (48% to 36%).

Of blacks who go to a public college in California, two thirds choose to start in the California Community College (CCC) system. Once there, only 1 in 4 earns a certificate, associate degree, or transfers after six years. Of those that transfer, more move on to a for-profit and/or out-of-state university than to a University of California or California State University.

At a time when the state is projected to have a shortage of one million trained workers with a baccalaureate degree, California must ensure that more black students graduate from high school ready for college and are successful in reaching their college dreams.

Declining in-state college-going rates, low completion rates, and high rates of black students transferring out-of-state demonstrate that more needs to be done in California’s public colleges and universities to better serve the black student population.
TOO FEW AFRICAN AMERICANS MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION INTO CALIFORNIA FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES

Even among the 16% of African American 9th graders that graduate from high school having met the A-G requirements for admission to a CSU or UC, only half are enrolling in the state’s public four-year universities.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES: FEW FOLLOW SUCCESSFUL ENROLLMENT PATTERNS

Certain enrollment patterns, such as completing college-level math and English within 2 years and earning at least 20 credits in the first year, are associated with student progress and degree completion. Yet black community college students are the least likely to follow these successful enrollment patterns. Furthermore, black students complete the lowest percentage (49%) of credits attempted in a community college (compared to 67% by whites, 71% by Asian Pacific Islanders, and 58% by Latinos).

MORE THAN 40% OF BLACK TRANSFER STUDENTS TRANSFER OUT OF CALIFORNIA & NEARLY 1 IN 5 GO ON TO FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS