DEAR CALIFORNIANS,

California’s bold vision for higher education in the 1960s catapulted the state into being a world leader in higher education and an economic powerhouse. It laid the foundation for Californians, regardless of income or Zip Code, to achieve economic and social mobility and pursue their American Dream.

Although a college degree still represents the best path out of poverty and into economic prosperity, California’s higher education system has not kept pace with meeting the changing needs of students or its workforce. As a result, California is at risk of falling behind.

Today, just under half of adults in California have a college degree or credential, however, growing demand for a more educated workforce requires that 60% of adults have a degree or credential by 2025. **That means California must produce 1.7 million more degrees over the next decade.** Producing those additional degrees will enable California to retain its competitive edge as the sixth largest economy in the world.

California has always been at the forefront of creativity and innovation. With so much at stake, it is once again time for California to lead by envisioning and investing in the next chapter of our higher education system. In fact, California’s future depends on our ability to ensure true educational opportunity for all of our residents and close gaps by race/ethnicity across the state.

Just as a student report card informs parents how their child is doing in school, this Report Card tells our state and college leaders where we are today in relation to where we need to be in 2025.

The Report Card is a call to action for policymakers, and all of us, to urgently create a new path forward that results in educating more Californians, strengthening our economy, and ensuring all Californians have the opportunity to reach their full potential and realize the American Dream.

Sincerely,

Michele Siqueiros
President
Campaign for College Opportunity
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE PREPARATION</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE ACCESS</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE COMPLETION</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADE POINT AVERAGE</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = EXCELLENT | B = GOOD | C = AVERAGE | D = POOR | F = FAIL
The college preparation grade measures whether California’s high school graduates are academically prepared to successfully engage in college-level work. It combines high school completion rates for 18 year-olds and completion of the college-ready curriculum, commonly known as the A-G requirements, with a C or better, necessary for admissions into the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems.

**WHERE WE NEED TO BE**
To produce 1.7 million additional adults with college credentials by 2025, California would need:

- 100% of its students to have completed high school
- 66% of high school graduates to have completed a college-ready curriculum with a C or better

**WHERE WE ARE**
Only 69% of 18 year-olds have graduated from high school*

*The cohort graduation rate for the Class of 2014 was 81%.

**Based on the cohort graduation rate of the Class of 2014.

Only 43% of high school graduates completed a college-ready curriculum with a C or better**
The college access grade measures the percentage of recent high school graduates as well as adults in the workforce that are enrolling in college.

**WHERE WE NEED TO BE**

To produce 1.7 million additional adults with college credentials by 2025, California would need:

- **71%** of 18-24 year-olds enrolled in college
- **9.5%** of 25-49 year-olds with no college credential enrolled in college

**WHERE WE ARE**

- Only **47%** of 18-24 year-olds enrolled in college
- **6.3%** of 25-49 year-olds with no college credential enrolled in college

California receives a grade of F in providing access to college.
The completion measure reflects the rate at which students who enroll in college successfully complete a program of study. It takes into account the number of degrees that are awarded yearly, successful transfer rates, degrees awarded to returning adults and the college completion rate of underprepared students.

WHERE WE NEED TO BE

To produce 1.7 million additional adults with college credentials by 2025, California would need:

To increase production of undergraduate degrees and certificates annually by 23,000 from a baseline of 420,000.

WHERE WE ARE

Only 12,584 additional degrees and certificates were produced over the baseline in the 2014-15 academic year.
Is College Affordable for Low and Median-Income Californians?

The college affordability grade measures the annual reduction in the financial aid gap for students in each sector—the Community Colleges, CSU and UC. The financial aid gap is the cost borne by students after earnings from a reasonable amount of student work, contributions from parents that reflect family disposable income, and grant aid from state and federal governments and institutions are deducted from the cost of attendance.

WHERE WE NEED TO BE

To produce 1.7 million additional adults with college credentials by 2025, California would need:

To reduce the gap in financial aid borne by students, after grant aid, a reasonable amount of student work, and family contributions, to $0 for students attending college.

To stay on target, the financial aid gap should close for each segment by at least 7.7% annually to 2025.

WHERE WE ARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOW-INCOME FAMILIES</th>
<th>MEDIAN-INCOME FAMILIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actual Gap in Financial Aid 2013-14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Actual Gap in Financial Aid 2013-14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC $7,124.00</td>
<td>CC $4,045.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU $5,641.00</td>
<td>CSU $5,165.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC $5,588.00</td>
<td>UC $4,485.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Financial Aid Gap Between 2012-13 and 2013-14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Change in Financial Aid Gap Between 2012-13 and 2013-14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased by 2.5%</td>
<td>Decreased by 28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased by 24.6%</td>
<td>Decreased by 45.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased by 27%</td>
<td>Increased by 6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade for Low-Income Families: F

Grade for Median-Income Families: B-
CALIFORNIA IS AT A CROSSROADS

This Report Card makes it clear that California is falling short in meeting both the needs of the economy and students in terms of college preparation, access, completion, and affordability.

IT IS TIME FOR BOLD ACTION

To remain the Golden State—an innovative, world-class economic leader filled with opportunity for all—we must act now.

We must work together in prioritizing the planning and financial investment needed to ensure that, by 2025, 60% of our workforce has the degrees and credentials needed to meet workforce demands in California.

WE CAN RAISE THE GRADES

Producing 1.7 million additional degrees by 2025 is achievable. The first step is developing a plan.

California can only reach the 60% attainment goal by ensuring all students—regardless of racial background or Zip Code—are also given the opportunity to be prepared for college and supported to succeed in college.

WE ARE CALIFORNIA

It is in our DNA to dream, plan, act, and create a better tomorrow.

LET’S GET TO WORK
WHAT YOU CAN DO

JOIN US IN CALLING UPON CALIFORNIA’S ELECTED LEADERS TO:

• Adopt the goal of ensuring that 60% of all adults in California have the degrees and credentials needed to meet workforce demands by 2025;

• Create a plan designed to ensure California meets the 60% attainment goal to meet workforce needs and close racial equity gaps;

• Fully fund higher education to serve all eligible California residents;

• Invest in efforts to streamline pathways to and through college including college preparation, remedial education and transfer;

• Hold colleges accountable for progress on completion, reduced time to degree and the closing of racial equity gaps; and,

• Expand financial aid for California’s lowest-income families.

SIGN THE PETITION

www.collegecampaign.org/RaisetheGrades
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The grades in this report card were produced by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) in a paper entitled, “Grading Educational Attainment Improvement in California—Progress to 60X25.” The primary author of the paper is Dennis Jones, President Emeritus of NCHEMS. The selection of categories and determination of metrics was guided by expert advice from Patrick Callan, Debbie Cochrane, William Doyle, Joni Finney, Hans Johnson, David Longanecker, and Nancy Shulock. The Campaign for College Opportunity staff contributing to the work were Michele Siqueiros and Audrey Dow. NCHEMS staff contributing to the work were Rachel Christeson, Patrick Kelly, Brian Prescott, and Liz Weeks.

To view “Grading Educational Attainment Improvement in California,” that includes a more detailed methodology of the grading in this report card, visit www.collegecampaign.org/RaisetheGrades.
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