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**Statement the Education Trust-West new report,
“Black Minds Matter”**

The Education Trust-West today released “Black Minds Matter: Supporting the Educational Success of Black Children in California,” which looks at how the nearly one million Black youth in the state are faring from preschool through college.

The report is a clear reminder of how California is failing to provide all Black youth with the education preparation and opportunities that make the California Dream possible and can strengthen our economic future.

“Black minds must matter to all of us if we are sincere about living up to our values of equal opportunity for all Californians and if we care about the economic success of our state. California’s public policies and educational practices continue to be MIA in courageously dealing with the persistent racial gaps in our state. Whether it’s inequitable access to high quality preschool, inadequate preparation for college or inequitable access to our universities, Black students have to be ‘lucky’ to overcome these challenges and get a quality education. And, luck is not a strategy for success in 2015,” said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

The report urges state policymakers to ensure access to high quality learning opportunities and calls for an intentional focus on improving opportunity for Black Californians. We agree with this call to action. “California’s looming shortage of over one million college educated workers will never be filled if we do not ensure more Black students get a quality K-12 education and enroll and complete a college degree or credential. Revisiting public policies that have served to keep Black students out of pre-school, quality K-12 learning opportunities, and our state’s public colleges and universities must be revisited and revised. Our future depends on it,” concluded Siqueiros.

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About Campaign for College Opportunity:

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit www.CollegeCampaign.org / [Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).