

Improving Financial Aid Completion: 5 Components of Success

November 2019



Agenda

1. An Overview
2. The 5 Components
3. Q&W





- Advocates for educational justice and the high academic achievement of **all California students**, Pre-K through college, particularly those of color and living in poverty.
- Influences policy in California by engaging key education stakeholders, including policymakers, thought leaders, practitioners, community groups, civic organizations, parents, and students.
- Drives state and national conversation about how our education system can better serve students of color and low-income students, pre-k through college.
- Identifies and analyzes data related to the inequities in California schools and colleges that disproportionately impact underserved students of color and low-income students.
- Believes **all California students** deserve quality college and career planning support and a smooth pathway to higher education.
- Provides data and planning infrastructure to unify the efforts of educational institutions, nonprofits and others focused on increasing postsecondary preparation and attainment.
- Identifies and eliminates data conflicts that prevent qualified students from attending UC and CSU schools.
- Connects K-12, public college, FAFSA and CA DREAM Act data systems with a 100% student match rate.
- Makes personalized, data-informed college, career and financial-aid planning tools available to one in four California 6-12th grad students.

Components of Success

01

Prioritizing completion through policy



02

Collecting & monitoring appropriate data



03

Establishing & maintaining strong partnerships



04

Building relationships & trust



05

Programming with students at the center



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01 Prioritizing Completion Through Policy



PRIORITIZING COMPLETION THROUGH POLICY

- CCGI’s **CaliforniaColleges.edu** platform can be used to support districts in implementing a local financial aid completion policy.
- Val Verde Unified School District’s graduation requirements include completion of FAFSA.

<i>Class of 2020 and beyond</i>	
<i>English</i>	40
<i>Math (Must Include Alg 1)</i>	30
<i>World History</i>	10
<i>US History</i>	10
<i>Economics</i>	5
<i>American Government/Civics</i>	5
<i>Life Science</i>	10
<i>Physical Science</i>	10
<i>Science Elective</i>	10
<i>Fine Art/Foreign Language</i>	10
<i>P.E.</i>	20
<i>Electives</i>	<u>+ 60</u>
<i>Total</i>	220

Plus 40 hours of community service completed at a non-profit organization, and a completed FAFSA application for college financial aid.

01

Prioritizing Completion Through Policy



VAL VERDE USD: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- Early **engagement** about financial aid applications starts in 8th grade.
- Students must complete a financial aid application (FAFSA/CADAA) to **graduate with a diploma** from VVUSD.
- Use CaliforniaColleges.edu to have students **launch financial aid applications.**

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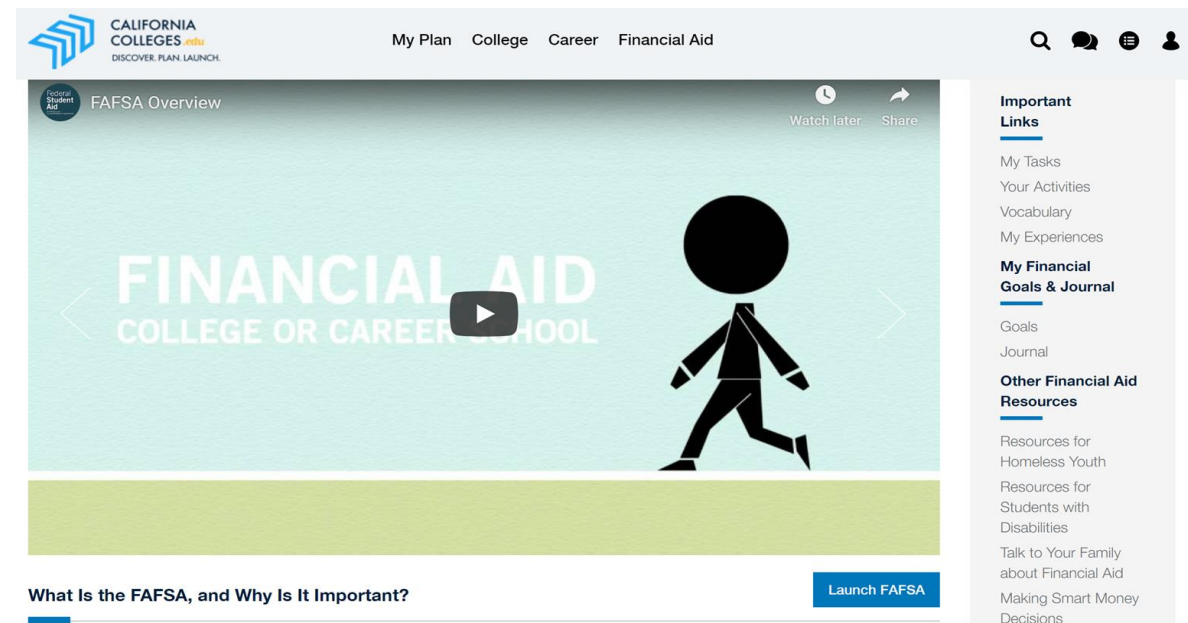
02

Collecting & Monitoring Appropriate Data



FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

- Students launch FAFSA or CA Dream Act from within their CaliforniaColleges.edu account.
- SSID is associated with FAFSA/CA Dream Act launch, preventing data mismatches that can delay Cal Grant verification.



MY FINANCIAL AID PLAN

Students' application status and GPA verification are visible in **My Plan** and educator reports.

My Plan
Preparing for life after high school starts now. Use My Plan to organize your thoughts, track steps, and develop a clear plan for the future.

Academic Planner | My College Plan | My Career Plan | **My Financial Aid Plan** | My Goals | My Journal | My Experiences | My Documents

Use My Financial Aid Plan to track financial aid and scholarship applications.

FAFSA/California Dream Act Application	Cal Grant	Other Financial Aid Applications	Scholarship List	Other Financial Aid Activities
Application	Date Launched from CaliforniaColleges.edu	Application Status*	Should I Apply?	
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)/California Dream Act Application (CADAA).	10/24/2019	Launched, but Submitted/Completed Not Verified	<p>If you are a U.S. citizen, or eligible non-citizen, and plan to attend college or a technical, vocational, or trade school, you must submit the FAFSA to be eligible for federal financial aid. Completing the FAFSA is free! You can submit the FAFSA online beginning October 1 the year before you plan to attend college. To be considered for state financial aid (Cal Grants), it is STRONGLY recommended that you submit your FAFSA by March 2. Even if you are unsure if you will receive federal financial aid, it is in your best interest to submit the FAFSA. Learn more and launch your FAFSA.</p> <p>If you are an undocumented or nonresident documented student and plan to attend college or a technical, vocational, or trade school you should submit the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) to be considered for state financial aid. You can submit the CA Dream Act Application online beginning October 1 the year before you plan to</p>	



02

Collecting & Monitoring Appropriate Data



02

Collecting
& Monitoring
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Data

EDUCATOR DASHBOARD

There are four status updates for FAFSA/CADAA reports:

- Not Launched.
- Launched, but Submitted/Completed Not Verified.
- Submitted.
- Completed.

The screenshot shows the 'Educator Dashboard' for California Colleges. The header includes the logo and navigation links for 'College', 'Career', and 'Financial Aid'. The main content area is titled 'Manage Reports' and provides instructions on how to track student readiness. Below this, there are several filter sections: 'Select Report' with 'Select Category' and 'Select Report Type' dropdowns; 'Select Filters' with dropdowns for 'Grade', 'Course', 'Section', 'Gender', 'Ethnicity', 'Special Population', and 'Race'; and date pickers for 'Start Date' and 'End Date'. A 'Run Report' button and a 'Reset Filters' button are also visible. At the bottom, a summary shows the current report and filter settings.

Manage Reports
Track your student's college and career readiness by running reports.

Quickly and easily obtain the aggregate data you need to better support your students on their path to being college and career ready. Select a report, choose your filters, and then, run report. View report summary and drill down on individual links with the summary for more details. Drill down even further, if you choose, by clicking on individual student names in the Student List tab and view their My Plans.

Select Report: [Have a report question? Contact Us](#)

Select Filters:

Report: None
Filters Selected: Grade: All. Course: All. Section: All. Gender: All. Ethnicity: All
Special Population: All. Race: All



02

Collecting & Monitoring Appropriate Data



VAL VERDE USD: DATA COLLECTION & USE

- Counselors collect data from CaliforniaColleges.edu and Web Admit.
- 85% of seniors launched financial aid applications from within CaliforniaColleges.edu.
- Counselors work with the students who have not launched a financial aid application to determine why and develop a new plan.
- Students have visibility into their own My Plan (digital portfolio) on CaliforniaColleges.edu.



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Establishing & Maintaining Strong Partnerships



VAL VERDE USD: STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Key Partnerships

- California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI)
- Moreno Valley College
- UC Riverside
- Riverside County Education Collaborative (RCEC)

03

Establishing & Maintaining Strong Partnerships



AFFILIATE ACCOUNTS: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PARTNERSHIP

Colleges and organizations that work with partner districts to **extend their college guidance efforts** can gain **Affiliate access** to CaliforniaColleges.edu.

College outreach staff can view high school students' account information **before and after they apply to college**, including:

- 6th - 12th grade transcript data.
- College and career planning activities.

03

Establishing & Maintaining Strong Partnerships



AFFILIATE USER ROLE

- Makes the college or program a Third-Party Authorized User.
- Allows students to add the college as a “secondary site” on CaliforniaColleges.edu
- Provides real time “view only” access to students’ Academic Planner and college and career planning data.

Connections

Family Connections
Below are family members connected to your account and who can view your My Plan. If you believe someone listed should not have access to your account, immediately contact your counselor.

First Name	Last Name	Date Connected
Select Connection		

Other Connected Accounts
Below are organizations that may be offering additional guidance services at your school. If you are participating in one of these programs and would like staff to be able to view information in your My Plan on CaliforniaColleges.edu, you can add the organization as a Connection below. Click on Select Connection, select an organization, and click Add Connection. You can disconnect the organization from your account at any time by clicking on the trash icon.

Select Connection

Add Connection

Settings

Turn on Text/SMS Messaging if you wish to receive text messages from CaliforniaColleges.edu. Standard message rates could apply, but adding your phone carrier, such as T-Mobile, may allow you to receive free text messages from CaliforniaColleges.edu.

Text/SMS Messaging
Turn ON if you wish to receive text messages

Cell Phone Number

Manage Student Accounts : Ccgl Partner Senior High School in Ccgl Unified School District

Explore student My Plans by searching for them in the table by name or grade level. Click on the student's name to drill down into My Plan.

Account Management

Search [] Select Grade [] Search [] Export as CSV

Name (Last, First)	Grade	Statewide Student ID	Local Student ID	Date of Birth	Email Username	Transcript Informed Account	Last Login	Created Via
James, Lily	9	65541654	845182	01/01/2003	ljames@ccgl.edu		04/16/2018 at 12:38PM	UI



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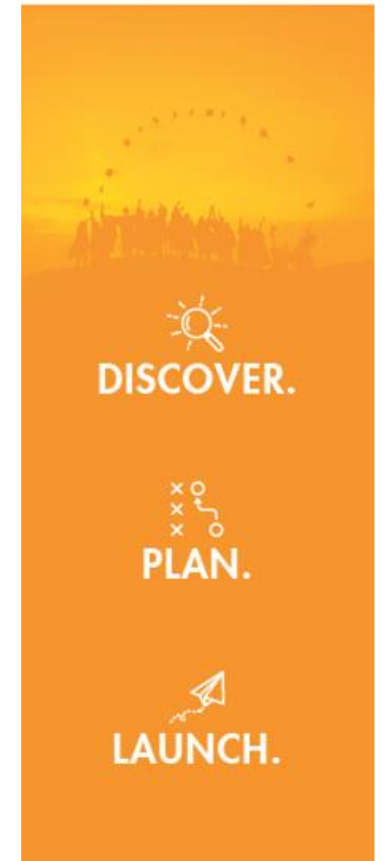
04

Building Relationships & Trust



CENTRALIZED HUB

- The associated 6th-12th grade curriculum guides students through a series of developmentally-appropriate college and career planning activities.
- Platform creates opportunity for engagement with students about their aspirations.



04

Building Relationships & Trust



VAL VERDE USD: ENGAGEMENT

Engagement, trust, and relationship building with students and parents about the financial aid process begins in 8th grade and continues with parent informational nights district-wide and at each site.



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Programming with Students at the Center



CALIFORNIACOLLEGES.EDU

CaliforniaColleges.edu is an interactive, web-based platform with an associated curriculum that:

- Helps **students** create and launch a plan.
- Informs **parents** about the topics that matter most.
- Enables **educators** to track student progress.



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Programming with Students at the Center



CAREER ASSESSMENTS

Career assessments help students connect their personal preferences, interests, and skills to their career goals.

- **Interest Profiler**
(All Students)
- **Learning Styles Inventory**
(Middle School Students)
- **Multiple Intelligences**
(High School Students)
- **Do What You Are**
(High School Students)



05

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the Center

CAREER SEARCH TOOL

Students can use the **Career Search Tool** to explore careers that match their preferences.

Career Search Tool
Explore careers that match your interests. Find careers by using the keyword search or the Industry and Bright Outlook filters.

Search By Keywords Health Care and Social Assistance

Select Bright Outlook Occupation

Results 166

Compare	Career	Education Level	Salary	Bright Outlook	Favorites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acute Care Nurses	Associate's Degree Bachelor's Degree Master's Degree	\$ 68,450	Grow Rapidly New & Emerging Openings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses	Master's Degree Post-Master's Certificate First Professional Degree	\$ 68,450	Grow Rapidly New & Emerging Openings	<input type="checkbox"/>



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MAJOR SEARCH TOOL

Students can use the **Major Search Tool** to explore majors related to their interests, and then they can see which colleges offer those majors.

Major Search Tool
Use this tool to search for programs and majors that interest you. You can view a list of colleges that offer the program or major by clicking "View Colleges".

Business Administration, Management and Operatio

Results 14

Majors	Description	Find Colleges Offering this Majors	Favorites
Business Administration and Management, General	A program that generally prepares individuals to plan, organize, direct, and control the functions and processes of a firm or organization. Includes instruction in management theory, human resources management and behavior, accounting and other quantitative methods, purchasing and logistics, organization and production, marketing, and business decision-making.	View Colleges	
Purchasing, Procurement/Acquisitions and Contracts Management	A program that prepares individuals to manage and/or administer the processes by which a firm or organization contracts for goods and services to support its operations, as well as contracts it to sell to other firms or organizations. Includes instruction in contract law, negotiations, buying procedures, government contracting, cost and price analysis, vendor relations, contract administration, auditing and inspection, relations with other firm departments, and applications to special areas such as high-technology systems, international purchasing, and construction.	View Colleges	



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COLLEGE SEARCH TOOL

Students can use the **College Search Tool** to research and compare colleges and find the best fit.

College Search Tool
Find colleges in California and across the country based on what is important to you.

Search by Keyword National Search California Only Search

Field of Study
 Program
 Major
 State
 Specialty Schools
 Campus Activities
 Teams & Recreational Sports

Degree Options

Certificate Programs

Bachelor Degrees (B.A. or B.S.)

Associate Degrees (A.A. or A.S.)

Graduate Degrees (Ph.D., M.D., J.D.)

Application Type

CCCApply Application

CSU Application

UC Application

Common App

Type of Environment

Rural (e.g. Farmersville, CA)

Suburban (e.g. Albany, CA)

Town (e.g. Pomona, CA)

Size

Small (up to 5,000 students)

Medium (5,000 - 15,000 students)

Large (15,000 - 30,000 students or more)



05

Programming with Students at the Center



ACADEMIC PLANNER

Students can use the **Academic Planner** to intentionally plan their high school coursework.

Academic Planner | My College Plan | My Career Plan | My Financial Aid Plan | My Goals | My Journal | My Experiences | My Documents

In the Academic Planner, add your completed courses, including the grades you received, as well as your enrolled and planned coursework.



The Academic Planner is a place to keep track of your grades and also plan courses you will take in high school. Each year, revisit your Academic Planner to select courses for the following year. To add courses, all you need to do is click on the + sign of the appropriate subject area. To learn more about high school course requirements, click here.

Legend ● Course with a D or lower + Add a Course i Click in the course box to edit or delete a Planned Course.

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
History / Social Science	World History QAHBSZ Fall Completed C	US History HMST7A Fall Completed B	AP History Fall Planned	AP Government and Politics United States (AP) EBKZEX Fall Advanced Placement Planned
	World History QAHBSZ Spring Completed B	US History HMST7A Spring Completed	AP Social Science Spring Planned	
			American Government (Cyber) QTDM3C Fall Completed A	

05

Programming
with Students at
the Center
CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION LAUNCH

Students can launch **CCC, CSU, FAFSA, and CA Dream Act applications** from within their accounts and track submissions.



CAL STATE **APPLY**

FAFSA[®]
Free Application for Federal Student Aid



California College
Guidance Initiative



The Education Trust–West

05

Programming with Students at the Center



VAL VERDE USD: STUDENTS AT THE CENTER

- Clear implementation plan with milestones by grade level that support students in developing a My Plan.
- Centralize the application process on CaliforniaColleges.edu:
 - Easier for students.
 - Helps ensure the movement of data to other institutions to support students' admissions and placement.
 - Gives the district critical data that help us ensure more students submit applications.



Questions



Exit Survey

<https://tinyurl.com/ETW-CCGI>

