



May 2016

# REGIONAL LEARNING COLLABORATIVES IN ACTION

Regional Learning Collaboratives (RLCs) foster communication and alignment, focusing on problem solving for student success across the K – Job pipeline. Cal-PASS Plus would like to recognize RLCs who focus on workforce alignment and dual enrollment opportunities: Sacramento *Get Focused Stay Focused* and San Luis Obispo County Office of Education.

## **Get Focused Stay Focused**

Get Focused Stay Focused is a college preparation and planning curriculum that starts in the ninth grade. The program was launched by Santa Barbara City College and Santa Barbara high schools, and is now prevalent in numerous high schools across the state. In essence, students create a 10-year educational plan that keeps them on track toward Associate Degrees, transfers, and completion of Baccalaureate Degrees. Currently, 2,000 high school freshmen in the Sacramento region are taking the course, with that number expected to grow to 6,000 by the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

Teachers, students, and administrators have given enthusiastic support to the curriculum, which is often articulated with community college courses and sometimes offers dual enrollment credit. The experiences in Sacramento mirror the experience and effectiveness this course has had in other California regions where it has been in place longer. Those schools have seen significantly improved freshman academic performance, higher attendance throughout high school, higher passage rates for classes required for college, and the growth of a culture of persistence.

Recently, the *Sacramento Bee* published an article about two high schools' attempts to help their freshmen think about their futures in a strategic way. So often students feel their way through high school and then are faced with critical decisions about college or career without having a clear plan for what they want or how to get it. The Sacramento Bee profiled the schools' use of the *Get Focused Stay Focused* curriculum to help students identify who they are, what they want in life and a career, and then lay out a plan for achieving their goals. They also receive community college credits if a grade of A or B in the course is obtained.

The economy of today is far more entrepreneurial than a decade ago, and the one thing students can count on is that the pace of change will most likely accelerate. Students must be taught not only to consider their futures, but *how* to think and plan in order to keep up. The *Get Focused Stay Focused* curriculum has shown promise in getting students and keeping them - on a path to success.

# **PASS It On**

www.calpassplus.org

## Raising the Bar in CTE Programs

San Luis Obispo County Office of Education is committed to improving the college and career readiness of students throughout the region by increasing rigor in career and technical education programs through the participation in the San Luis Obispo Partners in Education Consortium. The consortium was established to strengthen and develop regional systems and pathways for college and career readiness. Essential to the success of San Luis Obispo Partners in Education are strategic partnerships with Cuesta Community College and local businesses. Strategic alliances across education systems with regional business support ensure the preparedness of high school graduates with essential skills and knowledge for successful transitions to college and careers.

High schools in San Luis Obispo County have recognized their students were being forced to choose between A-G coursework and a

comprehensive career and technical education pathway. To bolster rigor and eliminate students having to choose, high schools have begun the process of integrating A-G coursework into the pathways. The integration will help to provide students with the occupational skill set, as well as the academic knowledge to be successful in college and, ultimately, the workforce. School districts in San Luis Obispo have also elected to use actionable data to ensure that students are getting to and through college and onto a career with a stackable career ladder.

The county has chosen to use the Cal-PASS Plus data system to track college and career indicators throughout the region and ensure that momentum points do not become choke points for their students along the education to workforce pipeline.

Want to learn more about how to start similar initiatives in your region?

Contact us at outreach@calpass.org.

# **Beating/Lagging Expectations Charts**

The Cal-Pass Plus website features Beating/Lagging Expectations charts that map the academic performance on standardized tests in Language Arts and Mathematics of a school or district over time based upon a particular subgroup of students and whether the performance is above or below expectation.

To access the Beating/Lagging Expectations tool, go to calpassplus.org and then:

- 1. Hover your mouse over the blue 'Pre K-12 Schools' button
- 2. Click on 'Public Student Achievement Data.'
- 3. Enter the name of your school
- 4. Select your school
- 5. Click on 'Beating/Lagging Expectations' tab
- 6. Select a subgroup from the pull-down menu at the top

The chart represents whether the school or district's academic performance leads or lags expectation, based on a linear regression analysis of the performance of other schools/districts in the state to adjust for the impact of student background on student academic performance.

A +10 on the chart indicates that the school or district's academic performance that year is 10 percentage points above the expectation for a district with that same percentage of students in the subgroup. A negative number on the chart indicates the school or district's academic performance lags behind the expectation for a school or district with that same percentage of students in the subgroup.

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# **Upcoming Events**

## California Community Colleges Doing What Matters

CTE Data Unlocked: Find it. Understand it. Use it. May 13, San Diego May 18, Oakland May 20, Long Beach

CTE Data Unlocked: Deepening Expertise June 28, Sacramento For more information, click here

## **Multiple Measure Assessment Project**

Campus Presentations May 13, Fresno City College May 19, Imperial Valley College May 27, Citrus College

For more information, contact: jhetts@edresults.org

#### **Common Assessment Initiative**

Professional Development Regional Meeting May 12, Del Mar Hilton Garden Inn For more information, visit: CCCAssess.org

#### **Align Capital Region**

Consortium Meeting May 17, 11:30 am, web

For more information, contact: vpluim@edresults.org

#### South West Bay 1070

Consortium meeting May 13, Palo Alto

For more information, contact: vpluim@edresults.org

#### Hayward Promise Neighborhood

Consortium Meeting May 20, Chabot College

For more information, contact: vpluim@edresults.org

#### Cal-PASS Plus Workshop

Consortium training May 26, San Luis Obispo COE For more information, contact: megan@edresults.org

#### **CCC Assessment Association**

Spring 2016 Southern Region Conference May 13, Crafton Hills College For more information, click here

## Western Association for College Admission Counseling Annual Conference – Sea Change

Transforming Student Placement In the Community College System June 2, Los Angeles For more information, click here

# Cal-PASS Plus Spring Webinar

Join us on May 9 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for the second spring webinar: "Creating a Pathway to Completion." Learn about innovative practices that streamline the pathway from high school to college completion.

Panelists will include:

Janevette Cole, Community Resident Engagement Specialist, CSU East Bay and the Hayward Promise Neighborhood Josh Roberts, Chair of English Department, Sacramento City College.

Janevette Cole will discuss the Farmers to Pioneers Initiative and how Hayward Unified School District and CSU East Bay are supporting first generation students to go to college and complete a degree.

Josh Roberts will discuss Sacramento City College's partnership with Sacramento City Unified School District to create an articulated 12<sup>th</sup> grade course that prepares students to begin college in transfer level English.

To register for the upcoming webinar, click here