



DRIVING IMPACTFUL POLICY AND PRACTICE CHANGES WITH CAL-PASS PLUS: **John Burton Advocates for Youth and California College Pathways**

In 2005, former President Pro Tem of the California State Senate John Burton founded a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the well-being of foster, former foster, and homeless youth: John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY). JBAY's work includes advocating for all foster youth to have access to vital health services, reducing youth homelessness, and ensuring that foster and homeless youth have the necessary supports to reach their educational goals.

As a key part of its educational work, JBAY manages California College Pathways. The statewide partnership is focused on creating a more seamless postsecondary pipeline for current and former foster youth. It provides college and university campuses and community-based organizations with training and resources to help foster youth succeed in college while also advocating for policies and regulations to improve their higher education outcomes.

Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and California College Pathways developed the Cal-PASS Plus Community College Foster Youth Dashboard, incorporating feedback from stakeholders across multiple campuses. The dashboard provides shared metrics and common definitions to enable stakeholders' work towards a common goal: Ensuring that current and former foster youth achieve important educational milestones at equal or better rates than the general student population.

“The data made available through Cal-PASS Plus has been a game changer. It has shined a light on the barriers foster youth face in college and allowed our policy work to target system-level changes that will have the greatest positive impact on foster youth’s educational trajectory.”

—**Debbie Raucher**, Education Director for John Burton Advocates for Youth

The Community College Foster Youth Dashboard is one of several components of Cal-PASS Plus, California's free, intersegmental longitudinal student data system. Cal-PASS Plus is dedicated to helping educational leaders and their partners improve student success and increase college and career readiness.

Created through leadership and funding provided by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the data system connects actionable student performance and workforce data from the state's K-12 districts, and the California Community College, California State University, and University of California systems.

Using Cal-PASS Plus data, California College Pathways developed *Charting the Course: Using Data to Support Foster Youth College Success*. The highly influential 2015 report dramatically impacted JBAY's future policy work.

Data indicated that foster youth weren't completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) due to lack of information and support needed to complete the application as well as verification barriers related to students' independent status. Inadvertently, foster youth were leaving millions of dollars of both federal and state financial aid on the table because of these barriers. That crucial discovery led to JBAY's advocacy work on Senate Bill 12, which streamlined the verification process and mandated that the child welfare system provide support to foster youth with financial aid applications, as well as Senate Bill 940, which expanded Cal Grant eligibility for current and former foster youth.

JBAY has been instrumental in successfully moving several bills forward in the California Legislature to better foster youth's lives. It has also spearheaded the development of important strategies for increasing their collegiate success, including advocating for and supporting the development of the California Community Colleges NextUp program.

Through NextUp, eligible current and former foster youth at 45 California community colleges are provided with comprehensive services as well as support with purchasing books and supplies, transportation, childcare, food, and emergency housing. Serving more than 2.1 million students, California Community Colleges is the nation's largest and most diverse system of higher education.

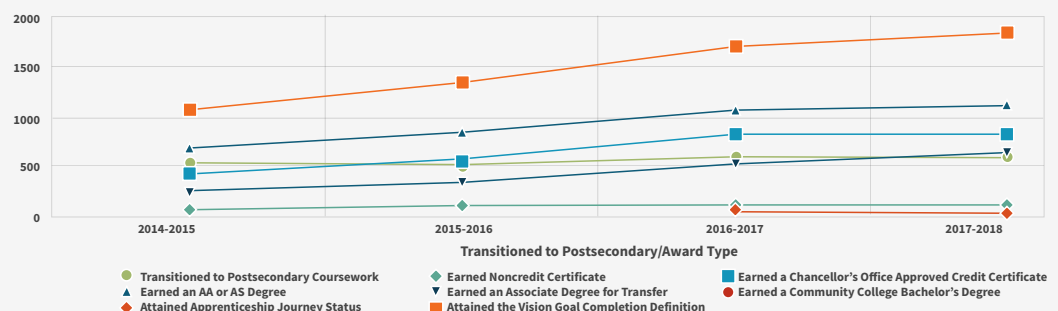
ERP and California College Pathways recently published *Pipeline for Success: Supporting California Foster Youth from High School to Community College*, a report identifying key factors affecting first year outcomes for foster youth community college students. ERP and California College Pathways also released a new Cal-PASS Plus K-14 Foster Youth Dashboard. The dashboard is a brand-new tool that will support increased collaboration between K-12 and community college partners and provide practitioners with data on what is happening to foster students after they leave high school.

Cal-PASS Plus helps educational leaders, workforce development leaders, Regional Learning Collaboratives, and their partners drive positive change through data-driven decision making.

Contact ERP today to learn more.

Transitioned to Postsecondary or Earned an Award

Among all students, the number of students who earned various types of awards within a year of last enrolling and the number of adult basic education, adult secondary education, and English as a Second Language students who enrolled in either a noncredit career education course or any college level credit course in the selected or subsequent year.



Data-Informed



Employer-Led



Equity-Focused

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