

# PASS It On



EDUCATIONAL  
RESULTS  
PARTNERSHIP

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## Bakersfield College: Making It Happen

**“There’s nothing comparable to the power of data. The magnitude of Cal-PASS Plus data is tremendous because it’s ‘K through Job.’”**

- Janet Fulks, Dean of Pre-collegiate Studies & Student Success, Bakersfield College

Bakersfield College (BC) is leading the way, piloting a new approach to improving assessment and placement for incoming freshman using multiple measures. Utilizing data and analysis from Cal-PASS Plus, Bakersfield College deployed a placement process that uses a combination of K-12 assessments, high school grade point average, course taking and course grades to gain a more complete picture of student capacity and their likelihood of success in college courses.

The initial pilot has produced many positive outcomes for students, and is setting them up for future success. The pilot has also led to new opportunities for stronger collaboration between the college and its K-12 partners. Based on the success of the pilot, all 4,000 incoming students will be placed using a multiple measures approach, and an additional 1,500 students will be placed in the Making It Happen Program – a comprehensive strategy to provide needed support to help students stay on track towards success in courses and college in general.

### Some Highlights from the Bakersfield Program:

- Only 3% of students were placed into transfer-level math courses and 29% into transfer-level English, when just using a college placement test.
- When students were given the opportunity to take the placement test at their high school, numbers increased to 12% of students placing into transfer-level math and 31% placing into transfer-level English.
- From the initial cohort of 454 low-income students, 361 were moved up at least one course in the Basic Skills sequence in English, math or both. An

additional 199 of those in the cohort were placed into an accelerated or compressed course, shortening the time needed to complete remedial coursework.

- These placements, combined with several years of Basic Skills curriculum revisions, saved BC students in the cohort 824 semesters of student work.
- A diverse team of faculty and experts led the design and implementation of the multiple measures project. They, and other staff, continue to serve as student support mentors, greatly improving retention and persistence of the students after initial placement.

The Cal-PASS Plus partners look forward to continuing support for Bakersfield College in its innovative and comprehensive effort using data to better recognize and support students’ capacity to successfully achieve their goals.

## Congratulations Bakersfield College!

The Brookings Institute recently issued a report that quantifies how much additional value an individual college creates for its students compared to similar peer institutions, particularly for outcomes on expected salary after completion.

According to the report, Bakersfield ranks #6 in the country and #1 in California among two-year colleges on Brookings’ metric for post-graduation earnings. The analysis estimates that attending Bakersfield College adds over \$10,000 in average mid-career annual salary compared to the average comparable two-year college.

Congratulations!

**To See The Report:**

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2015/04/29-beyond-college-rankings-rothwell-kulkarni>

## Reimagining the Capacity of Students

By John Hetts, Ph.D.

Almost a decade of research in the California Community Colleges and in other community college systems strongly suggests that we have been substantially underestimating our students' capacity to succeed in college-level work and, as a result, further undermining that very capacity.

Standardized assessments can be a valuable tool, particularly rigorous assessments designed by and customized specifically for our system. Having a better, competency-based, diagnostically-oriented test will help improve our understanding of the skills that our students bring to bear in our courses and help us to serve them better. However, the evidence strongly suggests that our students will be best served if the test is situated within a comprehensive, multiple measures based system of assessment. Three colleges provide compelling examples of why.

Starting in 2012, Long Beach City College implemented the use of evidence-based multiple measures in assessment and placement as a key part of its broader 'Promise Pathways' initiative. LBCC more than tripled the rate of students placed directly into transfer-level English and math while maintaining and even improving the successful completion rate of students placed into those courses using multiple measures. More powerfully, LBCC improved the completion of key early educational milestones within the first two years by two to six times previous rates. What's more, outcomes improved so dramatically that, in nearly every case, students across all demographic groups matched or outperformed the previously highest performing group.

Beginning in 2014, Bakersfield College launched its 'Making It Happen' program, implementing a wide range of assessment and placement reforms, including using multiple measures to place students into transfer level and accelerated courses, contextualized assessment testing, and various student support services. On an initial cohort of 454 students, 'Making It Happen' saved Bakersfield College students 824 semesters of time in developmental education with minimal impact on successful completion rates.

## In The Field

**June 16: SB1070 and CPP General Information Webinar 10a.m.-11:30a.m. PT**

**To learn more about the above event, contact:  
[outreach@edresults.org](mailto:outreach@edresults.org)**

Also in 2014, Sierra College implemented a program to empower students with information about their college readiness using multiple measures assessments, and exempting students from testing if eligible. Students placed into transfer level courses in English via multiple measures at Sierra College successfully completed the course at higher rates than those placed by the standardized testing instrument alone.

These early results at three very different institutions underscore the potential impact of the adoption of more robust multiple measures in the California Community Colleges. The twenty-three colleges participating in the Multiple Measures Assessment Project (MMAP), an initiative led by the RP Group and Cal-PASS Plus, are working to turn that potential into reality. MMAP is part of a broader effort to redesign assessment systems toward a more effective and comprehensive approach to understanding our students' capacity.

Together, the results from these three colleges, the research of the MMAP team, and results from other local, statewide, and national research point to a critical collective first step we need to take as we work together on the unprecedented, systemic change of the Common Assessment Initiative: We must begin to recognize that a far greater number of students have the capacity to do college level work than are currently being given the opportunity to do so. Twenty-three colleges have taken the first steps in this remarkable journey on behalf of their students by joining the MMAP pilot project.

Perhaps your local community college would like to make it 24?

## For More Information:

- [Multiple Measures at Multiple Colleges RP Group Conference Presentation](#)
- [Multiple Measures Assessment Project](#)
- [Common Assessment Initiative](#)
- Long Beach City College's [Promise Pathways](#)
- Bakersfield College's [Making it Happen](#)
- Sierra College's [Assessment Website](#) and [Assessment Interface](#)

## See our new and improved Member List!

With our new Member List, you can quickly and easily explore the following features:

- Search for K-12 districts, community colleges or universities by name or by region
- See who has a current MOU
- See what data is available from each institution

SOON, you will be able to find out which institutions are working on which projects and initiatives!

[www.calpassplus.com/calpass/join/members](http://www.calpassplus.com/calpass/join/members)

## Data as a Change Agent

Data can be invaluable when it comes to helping students. If you have not uploaded your most recent data or if your MOU needs to be renewed, please take time to do so. Comprehensive analysis of data is a powerful tool that helps highlight and improve proven practices. By focusing on high performing school systems, everyone can participate in highlighting and learning what works.

While individual studies of school performance are useful in reporting school, college, and career outcomes at a moment in time, "one look" snapshots have limited use. Your membership and participation in Cal-PASS Plus helps those looking to improve student achievement to go beyond the snapshot to identify patterns and consistent bright spots, and to understand results over time. A complete data set is vital to the systems improvement work being done across the state. It is these data that Bakersfield College, Sierra College and Long Beach City College relied on to make real change in their educational systems and programs to improve student throughput within the education to workforce pipeline.

You can too.

When complete and reliable data is available, powerful analytics can be used to identify the pathways to successful student outcomes. One important example of the results of this "predictive analysis" is in the development of reliable indicators of success in college for more accurate student placement. With more reliable indicators of success in college, institutions can more appropriately place students in college courses, reduce the need for post-secondary remediation, and increase the likelihood that students will complete college. Proper placement may also decrease the time to completion, lower total costs to the student and speed entrance into the workforce.

This information has the potential to fundamentally shift how we educate students and to have real results for our economy.