The California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) has received funding from the Stuart Foundation to improve educational outcomes for foster youth in California. We will be providing intersegmental educational data at three locales participating in the College Pathways program. The three locales, identified in collaboration with the Foundation and CSU Chancellor's Office, are Fresno, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. The project is designed to be a pilot project that will inform the development of a data support system for the College Pathways programs throughout California.

Cal-PASS will work with faculty, administrators, and program staff to identify the educational information of interest (e.g., A – G completion rates, high school graduation rates, college-going rates, initial postsecondary math and English placement, persistence to degree). Once identified, Cal-PASS will create a custom, web-based data upload procedure to support these programs' ability to flag in the Cal-PASS database foster youth at their institutions. Finally, we will create a customized, access-controlled website for participating institutions to access aggregate educational data about foster youth and the general student population at their schools. All data are anonymous and conform to the requirements of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Using the available custom fields in the Cal-PASS database, combined with the standard data elements, educational institutions will be able to:

- flag foster youth and former foster youth to understand how these students, as a group, compare to their peers on a variety of outcomes;
- test assumptions based on anecdotal data about foster youth and former foster youth across California's educational segments (K – 12, community colleges, and four-year degree granting institutions);
- use knowledge about academic achievement and progress to identify obstacles to academic success;
- develop and test educational interventions for foster youth and former foster youth;
- assess the effects of current and planned academic and student support services; and
- engage in strategic policy planning at the district, county, region, or state level to improve educational outcomes for foster youth and former foster youth.

The California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) is the only informational resource that creates regional partnerships among K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities through the sharing of student transcripts and performance information. Using data from the Cal-PASS system, educators align curricula to make instructional improvements and assess the effects of programs to better prepare students as they move from kindergarten to the university. Since being initiated by the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District in 1998, over 7500 educational institutions across California have joined Cal-PASS and the database holds over 400 million records. Current membership includes all California community colleges, two-thirds of K-12 districts with high schools, all but one University of California, and all but four California State Universities.

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