



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

March 19, 2021

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

[universityofcalifornia.edu](http://universityofcalifornia.edu)

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

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Dear Senator Skinner:

Pursuant to Section 10803 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on the Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier.

If you have any questions, Associate Vice President David Alcocer would be pleased to speak with you. David can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9113, or by email at [David.Alcocer@ucop.edu](mailto:David.Alcocer@ucop.edu).

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

Enclosure

- cc:
- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
  - The Honorable John Laird, Chair
  - Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
    - (Attn: Ms. Anita Lee)
    - (Attn: Ms. Jean-Marie McKinney)
  - The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair
  - Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
    - (Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)
    - (Attn: Ms. Carolyn Nealon)
  - Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
  - Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate
  - Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
  - Ms. Sue Parker, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
  - Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance
  - Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
  - Ms. Rebecca Kirk, Department of Finance

Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office  
Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office  
Mr. Jason Constantouros, Legislative Analyst Office  
Provost and Executive Vice President Michael Brown  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostorm  
Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt  
Associate Vice Provost Elizabeth Halimah  
Senior Vice President Claire Holmes  
Associate Vice President David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 10803 of the Education Code, which states:

“10803. (a) The Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University shall each establish a process by which colleges and universities within those systems issue, maintain, and report information using the unique statewide pupil identifiers specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (e) of Section 60900.

(b) Annually, on or before April 1, the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University shall provide a progress report to the Governor and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The report shall include a detailed timeline for the implementation, maintenance, and use of the unique statewide pupil identifiers pursuant to subdivision (a).”

This document is the annual report responding to this legislative request.

#### I. Background

The move to adopt a unique Statewide Student Identifier (SSID), a non-personally-identifiable number linked to each individual student within the California public K-12 educational system, paves the way for longitudinally-linked student-level data. The University of California’s (UC) ability to more accurately track students over time will prove an invaluable tool for assessing student progress in relation to academic preparation, participation in special programs, and campus outreach efforts. In addition, the SSID will facilitate a more comprehensive assessment of graduation and retention rates as students move across California’s public higher education segments (UC, California State University, and the California Community Colleges), as well as employment trends for graduates and non-graduates alike. In the absence of such an identifier, UC has relied on the use of “fuzzy matches,” which use a combination of information about a student to identify the individual.

#### II. Identifiers

UC began SSID collection in November 2006, for the fall 2007 admissions cycle, by requesting that applicants provide this information on the Undergraduate Application. The SSID has remained an optional item on the application, as many UC applicants are not California residents, and private schools do not assign SSIDs (though students enrolled in private high schools may have SSIDs if they previously attended a public school). Since the 2007-08 academic year, the SSID has been routinely pulled into the UC Data Warehouse (formerly UC Corporate Student System) from the application database. Including the fall 2021 admissions cycle underway, UC now has data for 15 cohorts of students. Approximately 83% of California resident applicants from California high schools reported an SSID in the fall 2020 cycle, down from 85% for fall 2019. Approximately 93% of the fall 2020 entering cohort from California public high schools reported an SSID, down from 96% in fall 2019.

UC has started to use SSIDs to match UC student records with K-12 data. For example, when matching UC admissions data to student performance assessment score data provided by the California Department of Education for graduates of California public high schools, most (over 80%) of the matches used SSID, while other matches continued to use historical methods (e.g., student name and birthdate).

In addition, UC's Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) programs, including the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP); the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program; and the Puente Project use data collection systems that allow for SSIDs to be reported by students, stored, and used in the analysis of student outcomes. In 2018-19, the most recent year of data available, roughly 68% (62,114 out of 91,548) of K-12 participants in EAOP, MESA, and Puente had an ID number in their SSID field. Since UC is currently unable to validate SSIDs, however, it remains unclear what percentage of these SSIDs are valid. Some SSIDs are also obtained through UC's Transcript Evaluation Service (TES), but not all students are included. As is the case with admissions, some students participating in UC programs are not aware of their SSIDs. When they are available, UC's Office of Diversity and Engagement accesses SSID data stored in the UC Data Warehouse.

The UC Office of the President worked with a nonpartisan, nonprofit research agency called WestEd during the 2017-18 academic year to validate SSIDs using CALPADS data. The resulting report, published by WestEd in 2018, showed that about 84% of applicants to UC from California public high schools in fall 2015 reported their own SSIDs, and about 80% of the UC applicants matched records from CALPADS using the SSID.<sup>1</sup> This overlap suggests that the majority of UC-enrolled students from California public high schools can be matched with CALPADS data or possibly other student-level data maintained by the California Department of Education (CDE) using SSIDs. This report also suggests that UC, CDE, and other public higher education segments could collaborate on data sharing and match students among the public segments to conduct a more comprehensive assessment of college preparation, retention, and graduation as students move across those segments.

### III. Detailed timeline for the implementation, maintenance, and use of the unique statewide pupil identifiers:

UC is developing an appropriate timeline for the implementation, maintenance, and use of unique statewide pupil identifiers in collaboration with other entities. As stated above, the SSID has already been incorporated into UC student data systems, and acquisition can now be tracked over time. UC is participating in the Cradle-to-Career State Data System, which will result in the linkage of student records across K-12 and the postsecondary segments beginning in fall 2021. One goal is to directly match UC and CDE student data, which will allow for self-reported SSID validation and research across segments. Access to CDE SSID data will also enable UC to derive SSIDs for those who do not provide this information on their undergraduate applications. Attaining this goal, however, continues to depend on getting the SSID included on all student high school transcripts, and CDE providing a comprehensive dataset of valid SSIDs matched with student name and high school (so data received can be validated), possibly via an extract from CALPADS. Additionally, UC plans to pilot a program to load key data elements, including SSID, using transcript data received through the UC Transcript Evaluation Service (TES). TES services approximately 500,000 students in nearly 450 schools (over 40% of all traditional and charter schools in CA). Implementation is expected by 2021.

**Contact Information:**  
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<sup>1</sup> Fong, A., Barrat, V., and Finkelstein, N. 2018. *Examination of Data Usability Options for Assessing Eligibility for Higher Education in California*. <https://wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/resource-examination-of-data-usability-options-for-assessing-eligibility-for-higher-education-in-california.pdf>.