



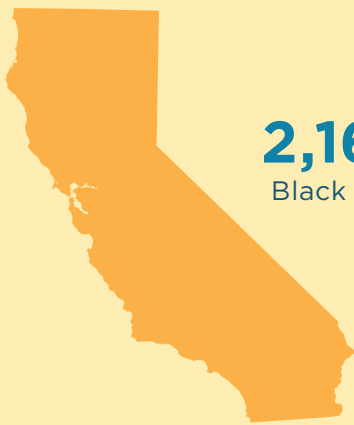
The Campaign for
**College
Opportunity**

February 2021

THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION for **Black Californians**

Ensuring that Black students are supported to reach their college dreams will not only improve their personal economic opportunity and workforce choices but is an investment that pays dividends to our state economy. We are heartened by the improvements in high school graduation and college preparation. We celebrate the historic and equitable reforms to college admissions and placement practices that have helped open the doors to college and college-level coursework for thousands of Black students. We are proud to see that graduation rates among Black students at the state's four-year colleges and universities have improved, but these improvements need to increase significantly. We know that a powerful opportunity exists when two-thirds of Black Californians in the workforce have attended college. We also know that Black students who attend a community college or university deserve to earn a degree, certificate, or transfer and to feel welcomed. Across all higher education, Black students deserve to see faculty, staff, and leaders who look like them, understand their experiences, and, most importantly, believe in their success and who boldly implement the best policies and practices recommended in this report.

California is home to the 5th largest Black population in America.



2,169,153
Black Californians

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020), *American Community Survey 2015-2019 Five-Year Estimates*, Table DP05 Demographic and Housing Estimates.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Two-Thirds of Black adults have attended college, but only half of those who enrolled earned a degree.

Bachelor's Degree (38%)



Associate's Degree/Certificate (15%)



Some College, No Degree (47%)



U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates 2014-2018, Public Use Microdata Sample*

More Black students are graduating from high school and prepared for college than ever before.

88%

of Black 19-year-old Californians have a high school diploma

41%

of Black graduates were supported to meet the A-G courses required for university eligibility

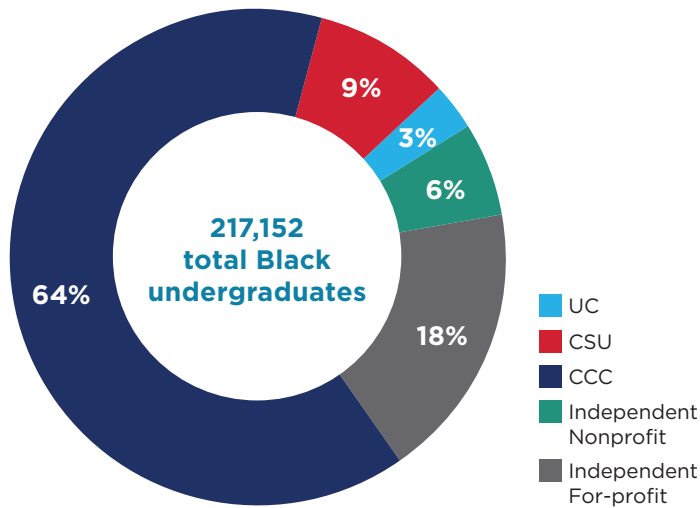
80%

of Black HS students meet A-G & enroll in college after graduating HS

Source: California Department of Education (2020). *DataQuest — Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate*.

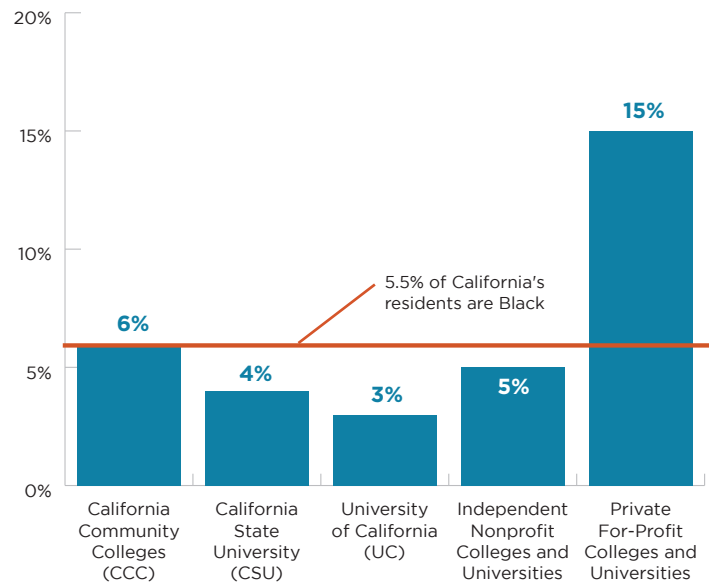
COLLEGE ACCESS

The majority of Black undergraduates in California attend a California Community College and too few enroll in the CSU and UC.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (2020), 12-month Enrollment Component (2018-2019), Table EFFY2019: Undergraduate.

Black students are **OVERREPRESENTED** at private for-profit institutions.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 12-month Enrollment Component (2018-2019), Tables: EFFY2019.

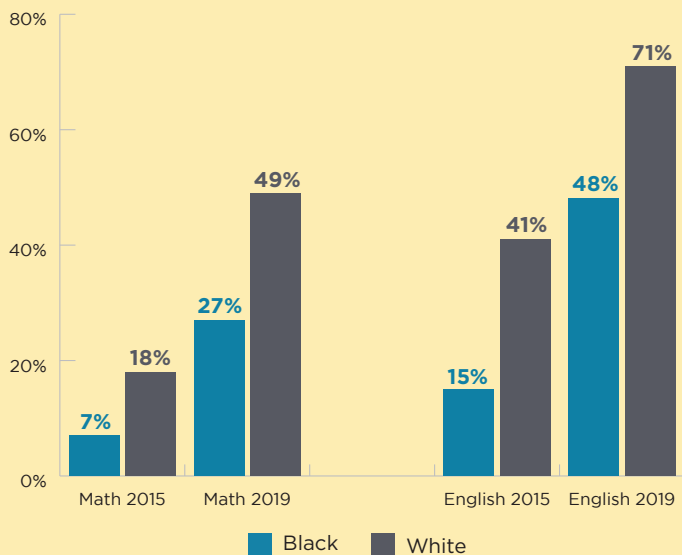
COLLEGE COMPLETION

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

completion rates have remained flat at about 38% over the last five years.

Thanks to **PLACEMENT REFORMS**, more Black community college students are accessing college-level coursework and succeeding, putting them closer to their degree goals.

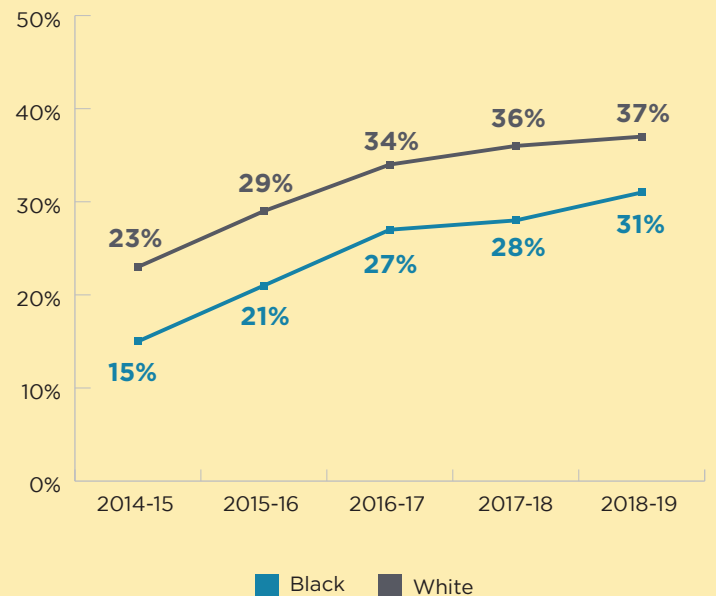
California Community Colleges—Percentage of First-Time Students Completing Transfer-Level Coursework



Source: Mejia, M.C., Rodriguez, O., & Johnson, H. (2020). *A New Era of Student Access at California's Community Colleges*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.

Too few Black students are **TRANSFERRING** on the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway.

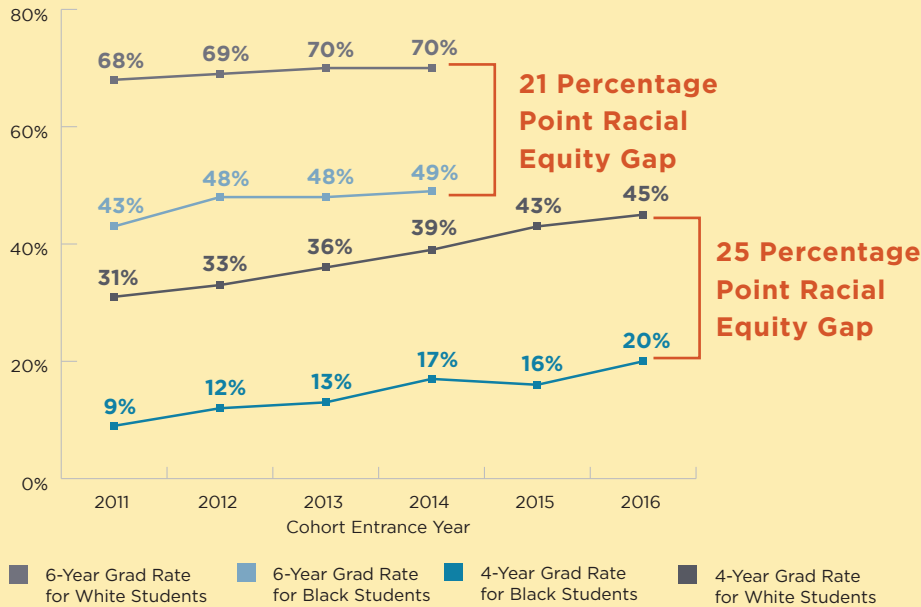
California Community Colleges—ADTs as a Share of Associate Degrees



Data source: Cal-PASS Plus. (2020). Student Success Metrics. [Data Dashboard].

CSU has doubled the 4-year college graduation rate for Black students over the last decade but BA completion rates are still only 49% after six years. Racial equity gaps in completion are persisting and in some cases, growin.

California State University Four- and Six-Year Completion Rates for First-Time Freshmen by Cohort



Source: California State University Office of the Chancellor, Division of Institutional Research and Analyses, 2020, Graduation Dashboard.

UC has the best completion rates for Black students but serves the fewest Black students.

77%

of Black students at the UC graduate in six years

54%

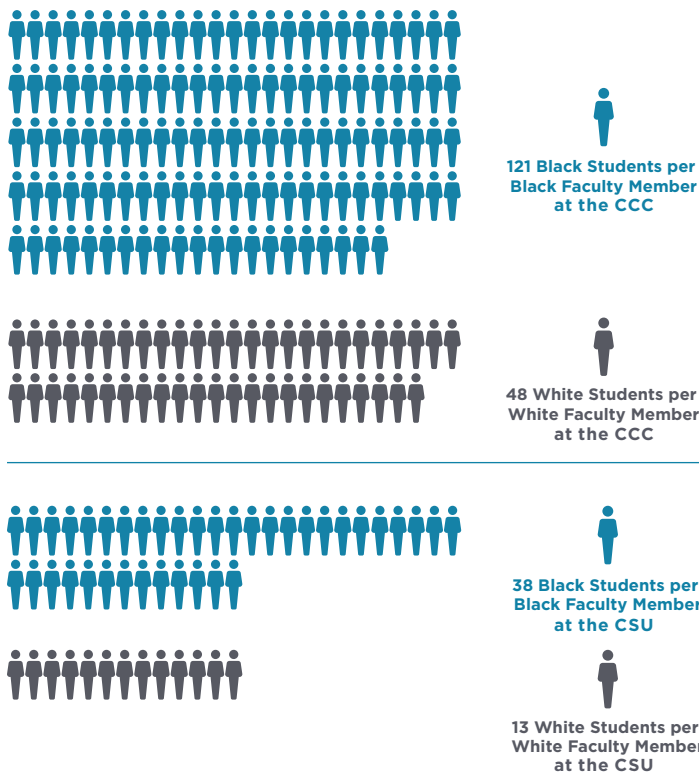
of Black students at the UC graduate in four years

Source: University of California Office of the President, Department of Institutional Research and Academic Planning.



REPRESENTATION MATTERS

Black faculty are underrepresented in all public colleges and universities.



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CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES HAVE **ONE OR ZERO** BLACK FACULTY



Source: National Center for Education Statistics; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS); Full-time instructional staff by academic rank, faculty and tenure status, race/ethnicity, and gender (Fall 2018) and 12-month unduplicated head count by race/ethnicity, gender, and level of student (2018-2019). Available from: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

RECOMMENDATIONS

California is making some notable progress but has a long way to go to achieve the just goal of racial equity in higher education. Creating meaningful college opportunity for Black Californians will require us to design and implement anti-racist policies and practices. We offer the recommendations below to help achieve a stronger and more equitable higher education system that supports Black students.



Federal Recommendations

- Limit access to federal financial aid (grants and loans) for for-profit colleges and universities that do not provide a quality education or value to the students that attend them.



State Recommendations

- Commit to the ambitious statewide goal of ensuring 60 percent of Black Californians in the workforce hold a degree or high-value credential by 2030.
- Reevaluate and update the enrollment caps established under the Master Plan for Higher Education and increase enrollment of Black students at the CSU and UC through proactive outreach and support.
- Recommit to a bold, new vision for strengthening transfer and ensuring equitable access to the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) for Black community college students by establishing a permanent intersegmental implementation workgroup.
- Develop a strong California Cradle-to-Career Data System to better enable policymakers and institutions to address gaps for Black students in college access and success.
- Reform California's financial aid system to prioritize equity so that every talented Black Californian can go to college and stay enrolled, regardless of their income status.



Community College and University Recommendations

- Ensure strong implementation of CCC and CSU reforms that focus on improving placement of students into college-level English and math.
- Strengthen the CSU Graduation Initiative to improve graduation rates and close racial/ethnic gaps.
- College presidents, campus leaders, and governing bodies must commit to identifying, hiring, retaining, and promoting Black faculty at California's public colleges and universities.



High School Recommendations

- Increase high school graduation rates for Black students to 90 percent and make the A-G coursework the default curriculum for all high school students in California.
- Mandate completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) for all high school students so that every talented Black Californian can pursue college, regardless of their income status.



To read the full report visit
collegecampaign.org

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