



“Digest” means an item has been through internal review by the Chancellor’s Office and the review entities. The item now has form and substance and is officially “entered into Consultation.” The Council reviews the item and provides advice to the Chancellor.

Title: Overview of Simplified Metrics Initiative

Date: May 17, 2018

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ISSUE

Colleges are required to understand, track, respond to, and report numerous metrics across many initiatives and funding streams. It is not always clear to colleges which metrics are critical, how the metrics have been defined, and how the values have been calculated across various dashboards, data marts, and reports. Many concerns were expressed to Chancellor Oakley regarding these issues and desires were expressed for simplifying the metrics ecosystem.

BACKGROUND

In response to these concerns, Chancellor Oakley approved the Metrics Simplification Initiative in December 2017 with the goal of completing a study by the end of March 2018. The fundamental approach for this work is outlined below:

- 1) The focus will be strictly on students and their educational journeys from recruitment to completion, not on functional divisions, grants, funding sources, etc.
- 2) The outcome will be a simplified set of metrics drillable for details. This set of metrics will displace all other student-specific metrics (except for Federal metrics such as Perkins).
- 3) Equity will not be viewed as a separate activity. Instead, it will be observed across all metrics. Therefore each metric will be drillable by gender, age, ethnicity, first-gen, SES, etc.
- 4) Metrics will be broken into three categories: access (input), practices (process), and student outcomes (output). Alignment with Guided Pathways and Completion by Design frameworks will also be considered.
- 5) Number of recommended metrics will be limited to ensure that we focus only on critical measures.
- 6) Each metric will be closely reviewed to ensure it is valid, viable, drillable, measurable, and critical.

- 7) An implementation/transition plan will be created for when each metric in the set can be put into production and which ones need legislative work. Extensive analysis and modeling of data will be performed before the presentation of the implementation/transition plan.

THE APPROACH

The initiative, led by Visiting Vice Chancellor, Omid Pourzanjani, conducted a series of meetings with a representative advisory group from the colleges (CEOs, CIOs, CSSOs, CBOs, faculty, deans, non-credit/AEBG experts, and workforce experts) to ensure ample input from the colleges guided the preparation and recommendation of a simplified set of metrics to the Chancellor.

Additionally a number of researchers and analysts from the Chancellor's Office, West Ed, RP Group, Jobs for the Future (JFF), the CCC Success Center, and the colleges were recruited to support this work.

The workgroup discussion were facilitated by Marty Alvarado from Jobs for the Future (JFF). The first meeting of the working group was preceded by the release of the first whitepaper that provided an inventory of the existing metrics across all systems and funding sources, and identified which metrics were legislated. Additionally, a study of national best practices was performed to help support some of the discussions.

The workgroup met for three separate all-day workshops (January, February, and March) to discuss whitepapers and research data prepared by the researchers and analysts.

The final outcome of this process has been outlined in the Simplified Metrics Initiative Whitepaper #3 and is available, along with all other pertinent documents, at:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Tsn2-gr7yzNiRgPmuWBG9Qscp74x8cMD>

NEXT STEPS

A number of tasks still remain to socialize and institutionalize the Simplified Metrics. With CCC Chancellor's approval, the workgroup may be reconvened to achieve the following activities:

- 1) Creating the data model and presentation of the new metrics: simplifying/unifying the data portals and presentation dashboards.
- 2) Outlining how/when existing student-centered metrics will be confirmed, modified, or replaced with existing metrics for existing funding streams such as SSSP, Equity, Basic Skills, Strong Workforce, Adult Ed, and Guided Pathways. Also, clarifying how the new

metrics will be aligned/combined with other required metrics such as Perkins and Accreditation.

- 3) Identifying where legislative work may be required to retire or change current metrics.
- 4) Determining how the various metric advisory groups and future initiatives align around the Simplified Metrics.
- 5) Preparing resources, training, and technical assistance to help practitioners use the Simplified Metrics to support local planning, learn about effective practices, and address equity gaps.
- 6) Ensuring that the Simplified Metrics align to any changes adopted by the Legislature and Governor through the New Funding Formula.

FEEDBACK/QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

The Chancellor's Office is seeking general feedback and comments.