

Item 12

(Information Item)

Update on Research Initiatives

SUMMARY:

This item will provide the Commission an update on various initiatives currently underway in the Data, Research, and Evaluation Division.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

As of September 2020, several significant research initiatives are underway which include:

- An analysis of current trends in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and California Dream Act Application completions for the current submission cycle, as compared to prior cycle(s).
- A completed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and data match with the California Department of Education (CDE) to acquire race/ethnicity data for use in mandated reporting and modeling of impacts of proposed policy recommendations.
- Completed MOU's with The California Community College Chancellor's Office, the Research and Planning Group of California Community Colleges and the EdInsights Center at CSU-Sacramento used in the commissioning of a study of summer melt and "paid rate" phenomena in the California Community College and California State University systems for Cal Grant awardees who do not use their awards.
- A completed MOU with the California Policy Lab at UC Berkeley to study the feasibility of modeling CalFresh eligibility using CSAC data.
- A plan for the data collection and evaluation framework for the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP).
- The convening of a mandated Student Loan Debt Advisory Committee, funded in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget, to examine the creation of policy recommendations to help advise students and families as to the best ways to minimize student loan debt and provide information on how to best utilize student loans.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

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