

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9074  
<http://www.ucop.edu>

March 15, 2019


The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Mitchell:

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 regarding this report, 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).

Yours very truly,

  
Janet Napolitano  
President

Enclosure

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable Richard D. Roth, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Ms. Anita Lee)  
(Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Mrs. Katie Sperla)  
Ms. Jennifer Troia, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell

March 15, 2019

Page 2

Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Ms. Keely Bosler, Department of Finance  
Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance  
Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance  
Mr. Jack Zwald, Department of Finance  
Ms. Rebecca Kirk, Department of Finance  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ms. Carolyn Chu, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Mr. Jason Constantouros, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Executive Vice President and Provost Michael Brown  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Claire Holmes  
Vice Provost and Chief Outreach Officer Yvette Gullatt  
Vice President Pamela Brown  
Associate Vice President David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty  
Associate Vice President Elizabeth Halimah  
Chief of Staff to the Chief Financial Officer Oren Gabriel  
Chief of Staff Governmental Relations Bob Hartnagel  
Manager Jennifer Brice

## 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) paves the way for longitudinally-linked student-level data. The ability for the University of California (UC) 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, as well as campus outreach efforts. In addition, the SSID will facilitate a more comprehensive assessment of graduation and retention rates as students move across segments, 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 uniquely identify an individual.

#### II. Identifiers

UC began collection of the SSID by requesting it from applicants on the Undergraduate Application beginning with the Fall 2007 admission cycle (November 2006). The SSID has been kept as an optional item on the application as many UC applicants are not from California and private schools do not assign one. 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 2019 admissions cycle underway, UC now has data for thirteen entering cohorts. In recent years over 75% of California resident applicants report their SSID. Approximately 82% of California resident applicants did so in 2018. In recent years over 85% of students from California public schools have submitted a SSID. Approximately 93% of the 2018 entering cohort from California public high schools reported a SSID. Students enrolled in private high schools may have a SSID if they previously attended a public school. Reports from our application call center lead us to believe that California students are generally unaware of their SSID or where to find it. Some California schools print a student’s SSID on the report card or transcripts while others do not release the number to students. Overall, student awareness and reporting of their SSID seems to be increasing. Since we have not validated the self-reported SSID, we have not yet used this information to match student

records across K-12 and the California higher education system, and we are still relying on historical methodologies for uniquely identifying students.

In addition, the University of California's Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) programs called EAOP (Early Academic Outreach Program), MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), and Puente use data collection systems that allow for SSIDs to be reported by students, stored, and used in the analysis of student outcomes. For 2017-18, roughly 62% (51,149 out of 82,136) 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, it is unclear what percentage of these numbers are valid. Some SSIDs are also obtained through UC's Transcript Evaluation Service (TES), but not all students are included. As with admissions, some students are not aware of their SSIDs when participating in UC programs. When it is available, UC's Office of Diversity and Engagement does access SSID data stored in the UC Data Warehouse. We will be able to match participants in UC's academic preparation programs with students in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) after it is fully developed.

UCOP worked with WestEd in 2017-18 to validate SSIDs using CALPADS data. The report by WestEd shows that about 84% of applicants to UC from California public high schools in fall 2015 submitted self-reported SSIDs and about 80% of the UC applicants matched records from the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) using the SSID.<sup>1</sup> This suggests that the vast 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 using SSIDs. This further implies that UC, CDE and other public higher education segments could collaborate on data sharing and match students among public segments to conduct a more comprehensive assessment of student college preparation, retention and graduation as students move across segments.

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

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 efforts to facilitate the sharing of student data between the three public segments of higher education (University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges) and K-12 institutions (California Department of Education - CDE). The goal is to directly match UC and CDE student data, providing a way to validate self-reported SSID. Access to CDE student SSID data will also provide UC a means for deriving a SSID for those who did not provide this information on their undergraduate applications. Attaining this goal continues to be dependent on getting the SSID included on all student high school transcripts, ideally electronic submission of all such transcripts (eTran), and provision of a comprehensive dataset of valid SSIDs matched with student name and high school from CDE (so data received can be validated), possibly via an extract from CALPADS provided by CDE.

**Contact Information:**  
Office of the President  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

---

<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>.