



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

James B. Milliken  
President

April 29, 2026

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

universityofcalifornia.edu

The Honorable John Laird  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Laird:

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 Cain Diaz would be pleased to speak with you. Cain can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9350, or by e-mail at Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

James B. Milliken  
President

Enclosure

- cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
- The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, Chair
- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
- (Attn: Mr. Diego Lopez)
- (Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)
- The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair
- Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
- (Attn: Mr. Christian Griffith)
- (Attn: Mr. Tobias Wolken)
- Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- Ms. Jessica Holmes, Department of Finance
- Ms. Jessica Deitchman, Department of Finance
- Ms. Gabriela Chavez, Department of Finance
- Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office
- Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office
- Ms. Florence Bouvet, Legislative Analyst’s Office
- Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
- Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt
- Associate Vice Provost Cynthia Davalos

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Senior Vice President Meredith Turner  
Vice President Pamela Brown  
Associate Vice President Cain Diaz  
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton

## 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, paved the way for longitudinally-linked student-level data in California’s Cradle-to-Career (C2C) Data System. C2C in turn may provide opportunities to validate a greater share of SSIDs in the University of California’s (UC) data systems. The University’s 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 2026 admissions cycle underway, UC now has data for 20 cohorts of students. Approximately 85% of California resident applicants from California high schools reported an SSID in the fall 2025 cycle, up slightly from 84% in fall 2024. Approximately 97% of the fall 2025 entering cohort from California public high schools reported an SSID, up slightly from 95% in fall 2024.

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 2023-24, roughly 82% (95,684 out of 117,127) of K-12 participants in EAOP, MESA, and Puente had an ID number in their SSID field. Some SSIDs are also validated through UC Compass, but not all student records are included. As is the case with admissions, some students participating in UC programs are not aware of their SSIDs.

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 the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). 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 Data System. Beginning fall 2023, the SSID was used to link high school student records from the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) with the UC application and the number of linkages continues to expand.

It would be ideal to directly match UC and CDE student data, which would allow for self-reported SSID validation and research across segments. Access to CDE SSID data would also enable UC to derive SSIDs for those who do not provide this information on their undergraduate applications. Doing so would 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.

**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://www.wested.org/resource/data-usability-options-for-assessing-eligibility-for-higher-education-in-california/>.