

San Diego/Imperial Counties SWP Workgroups

Context Summary

Draft - February 19, 2021

A primary goal of the San Diego/Imperial Counties SWP is to develop a system of industry-aligned K-14 career pathways throughout the region and provide support to students in entering and succeeding in those pathways, including the attainment of living wage employment. Successfully employed graduates in turn support the economy and contribute to the health and well-being of their communities. The Region is committed to an equity-based approach in all its efforts to ensure that all students succeed.

To attain this goal, the regional consortium has created workgroups that correspond to key segments of a student's journey, beginning in middle school and high school, and continuing through employment in students' fields of study, as follows:

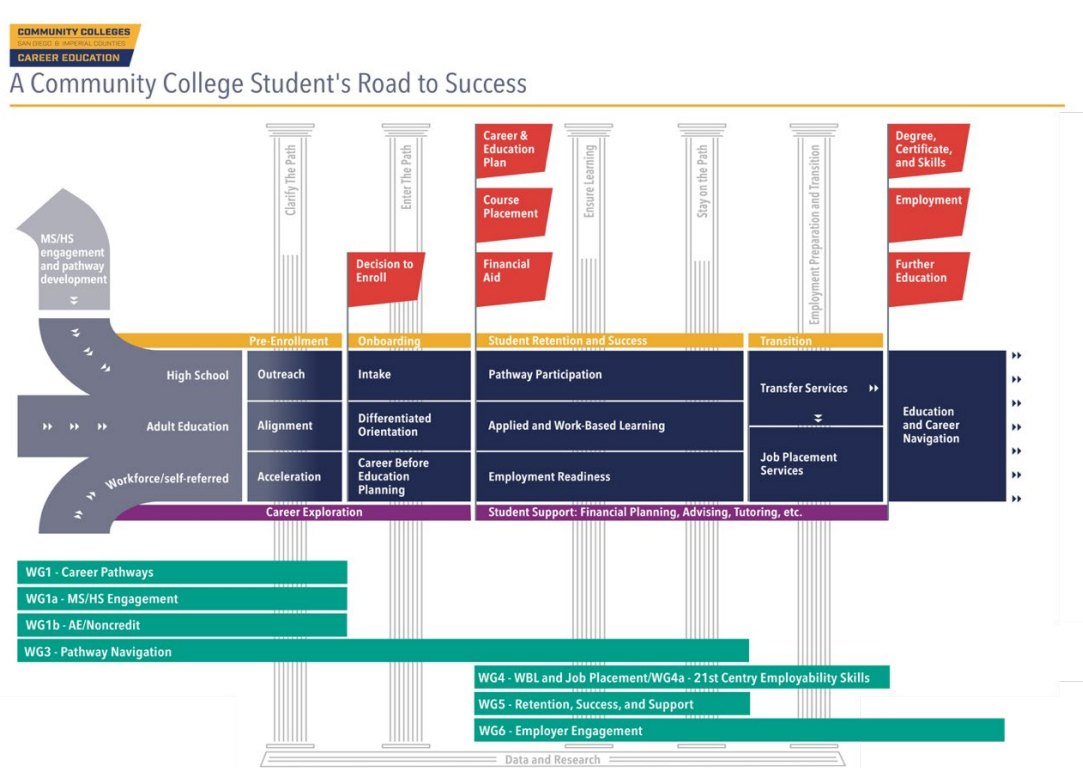
- **WG 1:** WG 1 provides support for postsecondary engagement strategies and the development of K-12 and Adult Education pathways that will set students on the path to community college CE programs; this work encompasses alignment activities (ensuring that pathway course sequences and curricula connect from K12 to the community colleges), acceleration activities (including the development of early college credit opportunities for career pathway completion), and outreach activities that help pathway students make the transition to college. Workgroup 1 as originally conceptualized encompasses two sub-workgroups and is connected to the K-12 SWP initiative as follows:
 - WG 1a/2: Middle School/High School Engagement, focused currently on K-12 WBL
 - WG 1b: Adult Education (pathway development currently focused on pathway coding and mapping)

These efforts are not only interconnected among themselves but also link to the efforts of other work groups. For example, work in the domain of "Outreach" directly link to Intake processes being developed in WG 3. In addition, career exploration and WBL opportunities offered at the K-12 level directly impact the WG 3 goal of providing "career planning before education planning", in that opportunities offered in high schools and Adult Schools help ensure that students have done some career planning even before arriving at the colleges, thereby addressing the colleges' concerns around lack of informed decision-making which may result in lower persistence and completion.

- **WG 3:** Pathway Navigation is focused on comprehensive Intake which enables educators to identify the full range of students' assets and needs so they can provide services needed for success; differentiated orientation that can effectively lead students to appropriate pathways and services at the college; and "career planning before education planning" which can help students select courses and pathways based on self-knowledge and exposure to options, thereby elevating motivation and pathway persistence.
- **WG 4:** Work-Based Learning and Job Placement Case Management has a dual focus. Work-based learning is focused on providing experiences that make classroom learning relevant and engaging, teaching essential "21st century skills through direct engagement with real workplace problems, exposing students directly to future job opportunities, and providing opportunities for employers to

vet prospective employees and provide feedback to educators about skills taught in the classroom. Job placement case management supports student in obtaining employment in their field of study.

- **WG 5 (unofficial):** Student support, has focused on ensuring that faculty use data to support their students’ performance in pathways.
- **WG 6:** Employer engagement ensures that employers are available to provide both needed learning opportunities for students and curriculum input for faculty, and that outreach to employers is coordinated across the region.



In addition to the workgroups, the Region’s two county offices of education play critical roles in supporting knowledge sharing, professional development, in their respective counties. The Region’s SW Program leverages these efforts to expand the work regionally and deepen the engagement with the community colleges to support students and build the “middle skills” workforce for the region’s employers. The Director, Higher Education & Adult Learning for Imperial County Office of Education and the Senior Director, College and Career Leadership for the San Diego County Office of Education are now co-leads of WG 1.

K-12 SWP, while not a WG, plays an integral role in furthering the regional efforts. Supported by the region’s TAP and K12 Pathway Coordinators, the K-12 SWP supports K-14 pathway development, including the components of quality pathways such as WBL, Early College Credit and transition services (among others) in each of 6 “subregional” areas (defined by CC districts and their feeder K-12 LEAs) and so is doing the critical on-the-groundwork to build capacity of the LEAs leading to the “seamless” K-14 pathways and smooth transitions for students across the two segments.