

HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO COLLEGE

What the postsecondary system can do:

1. Ask LAUSD to allow students/parents to **sign waiver up-front** to release information to colleges, including social security numbers.
2. Make high school transcripts **automatic electronic transfers** by linking ISIS to CSU/UC databases.
3. Send a letter to the applicant that says he/she is UC/CSU/CC eligible before the start of senior year.
4. Generate an **automatic admission PIN** number for qualified students and send it to their home. Have the PIN number linked to their application, with common fields populated based on ISIS information.
5. State on the initial page of the application in a **getting started** section the documents and information students will need.
6. Make admission fee waivers a **one-step process** for all applications based on income and attendance at an in-state school.
7. Make basic information for CSU and UC applications **common**.
8. Issue students the **same User ID** and **password** for all CSU system campuses and UC system campuses in response to their admissions applications.
9. Provide an Admissions Application **HOTLINE** during the month of November where students, families and counselors receive immediate answers to application questions. Available hours should include evenings and week-ends.
10. Make *undocumented* applicants to the CSU eligible for fee-waivers.
11. Create a one-page guide to completing the admissions application for undocumented students.

What the school system can do:

1. Have a bank of **laptops available** from November 1st to 30th to anticipate volume.
2. Create **wireless capability** in every college counseling office.
3. Hold a computer lab to explain how to apply and develop computer literacy.
4. Encourage schools to **make computer labs available** to students before school, during breaks, and after school during the month of November.
5. Provide one supervised internet accessible computer where students can have access to non-LAUSD email.
6. If students are only allowed to use an LAUSD account at school then **broaden** their email account access so that the account is a viable resource for students.
7. Reinstigate “z-time” or offer “x-time” **pay** to off-track teachers and counselors to assist students with the completion of college admissions applications.
8. Institute a **peer college mentoring** program in every high school to supplement services offered through college centers.
9. **Post UC/CSU requirements** in classrooms just as they are mandated to post standards. Send this information to students’ families.
10. Promote open enrollment options for community colleges.

About CHEPA

The Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA) is an interdisciplinary research unit led by Director, William G. Tierney, and Associate Director, Adrianna Kezar. The Center was established to engage the postsecondary-education community actively, and to serve as an important intellectual center within the Rossier School of Education; it draws significant support and commitment from the administration. The Center's mission is to improve urban higher education, strengthen school-university relationships, and to focus on international higher education, emphasizing Latin America and the Pacific Rim. Working on fulfilling that mission are the Center's faculty, research assistants, and staff. We are currently involved in a three-year study of college access and financial aid for low-income students, a multi-year investigation of governance and decision-making in higher education, a study on ways to increase the diversity of faculty, and a project that will provide ways to increase the transfer rate of urban community college students to four-year institutions.

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Lumina Foundation for Education, an Indianapolis-based, private, independent foundation, strives to help people achieve their potential by expanding access and success in education beyond high school. Through grants for research, innovation, communication, and evaluation, as well as policy education and leadership development, Lumina Foundation addresses issues that affect access and educational attainment among all students, particularly underserved student groups, including adult learners. The Foundation bases its mission on the belief that postsecondary education remains one of the most beneficial investments that individuals can make in themselves and that society can make in its people. For more details on the Foundation, visit its Web site at www.luminafoundation.org.

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CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY ANALYSIS
Rossier School of Education
University of Southern California
701 Waite Philips Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90089-4037
(213) 740-7218
www.usc.edu/dept/chepea