

CALIFORNIA EDUCATION ROUND TABLE  
Intersegmental Coordinating Committee



An Inventory of Statewide Initiatives  
for Middle Grade Students, Schools, Educators, and Families



# An Inventory of Statewide Initiatives for Middle Grade Students, Schools, Educators, and Families

## INTRODUCTION

At the University of California's Board of Regents meeting on January 22, 2014, the chief executive officers of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and the University of California announced their intention to collaborate in connecting with middle school students and families in order to encourage them to prepare early to pursue education beyond high school. This commitment on the part of the collective *leadership* of these educational systems is unprecedented and crucial to support the efforts of our state is to improve educational outcomes for all students and close the pernicious and persistent achievement gaps between groups of students. And, our success in reaching these outcomes will impact the economic, social, and civic life of all Californians in the future.

As these leaders embark on this commitment, they do so within a context of several statewide initiatives that have been implemented over the last 15 years to serve middle schools, their students and families. These initiatives vary in terms of services, complexity, administrative agency, audience, comprehensiveness, scope, size, and student demographics but share a common purpose: **to enhance the preparation of students for admission to, and success in, higher education beginning in middle school.** These existing initiatives offer a starting point from which to build a statewide, comprehensive, omnipresent, and omnipotent campaign to prepare the workforce of tomorrow beginning in the early secondary school years.

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS INVENTORY

In order to support this commitment, the California Education Round Table Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC) -- the programmatic arm of the voluntary association of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and chief executive officers of the three public higher educational system and the private non-profit colleges and universities -- compiled an inventory of current statewide middle grade initiatives. The audience for this inventory is the leaders and their staffs who made this commitment in order to inform and assist their deliberations to determine effective and efficient actions that they can undertake in order to yield the most positive results for students.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE INVENTORY

The initiatives included in this inventory that are focused on **middle schools and their students and families** share the following characteristics:

- administered presently, or in the past, by a Round Table member or the ICC;
- their primary goal, unless noted otherwise, is to prepare secondary school students -- primarily in middle school -- for training beyond high school;
- their scope and reach are statewide or at least multi-county. By definition, then, this characteristic eliminates local efforts in many areas of the state that have the same goals but do not meet this criterion.

This following inventory provides current information on several dimensions:

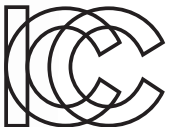
- brief description, including administrator, funding source, and website;
- typical services offered;
- number of schools; and,
- number of participants.

DESCRIPTION	MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICES	MIDDLE SCHOOLS	MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS	COMMENTS
<p><b>Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID):</b> Begun in 1981, AVID is an in-class and supplemental support program for under-achieving students in Grades 6-12.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> AVID Center in San Diego  <i>Funding:</i> Fee-for-service to school districts  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.avid.org">http://www.avid.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• classroom instruction as an elective;</li> <li>• study skills workshops;</li> <li>• teacher professional development;</li> <li>• in-class and supplemental tutoring;</li> <li>• campus tours;</li> <li>• mentoring</li> </ul>	786	93,239	Prior to 2012-13, the AVID Program was funded, in part, through State funds in the budget of the California Department of Education.
<p><b>California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI):</b> This previous ICC website (<a href="http://californiacolleges.edu">californiacolleges.edu</a>) was incorporated into a more comprehensive initiative that uses an interactive website and other technologies to provide college- and career-relevant information and explore career options.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> California Community Colleges through its Foundation for California Community Colleges  <i>Funding:</i> State Budget and private foundations  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.californiacolleges.edu">http://www.californiacolleges.edu</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• college and career information;</li> <li>• college admissions test preparation, including ACT, GRE, and SAT;</li> <li>• portfolio development and maintenance;</li> <li>• electronic transfer of transcripts;</li> <li>• mobile application;</li> <li>• student management system for counselors</li> </ul>	All schools	929,333 website visits; 18,757 accounts created by middle students in 2013	This website has been re-designed and is being piloted by four school districts to identify any changes that need to be made in student services and technology before this resource is available statewide.
<p><b>California Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP):</b> Since 1999, this program's goal has been to develop and sustain the organizational capacity of middle schools to prepare all students for higher education through a network of support for counselors, teachers, school leaders, and families.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> University of California with the Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC) responsible for oversight  <i>Funding:</i> United States Department of Education  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.castategearup.org">http://www.castategearup.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• administrator, counselor, and teacher professional development;</li> <li>• Leadership Team support to develop a <i>college-going culture</i>;</li> <li>• resources, tools, and services development and dissemination;</li> <li>• family-school engagement;</li> <li>• subject-specific articulation across educational levels;</li> <li>• services to a cohort of students beginning with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade through high school graduation (one school)</li> </ul>	49	36,355	California has 15 local GEAR UP partnership projects that involve at least one middle school and one higher educational campus that serves students from seventh grade through high school graduation.
<p><b>College: Making It Happen (CMIH):</b> Initiated in 1994 specifically for families and educators of middle school students, this guide has information on the benefits, academic requirements, financial considerations, and available resources to prepare for college.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC)  <i>Funding:</i> California GEAR UP Program, ICC, ScholarShare, University of California, and fees from large orders  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.certicc.org">http://www.certicc.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revised annually to maintain currency;</li> <li>• published in English and Spanish;</li> <li>• distributed to every middle school in the state;</li> <li>• events are held at middle schools and on college campuses for students and their families throughout the state that are coordinated, in large part, by California State University staff. Over 300 schools and 10,000 students participate in these events.</li> </ul>	All schools with 8 <sup>th</sup> graders receive a guide; more copies can be ordered	165,000 annually	The guide is sent to all middle schools with other resources and a letter from the Round Table that urges their use to support activities to prepare students for college.

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<p><b>Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP):</b> Established in 1975, EAOP focuses on supporting educationally disadvantaged students in Grades 7-12 to complete the academic requirements needed for admissions to California's public universities.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> University of California  <i>Funding:</i> State Budget  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.eaop.org">http://www.eaop.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic advising, specifically in terms of meeting the admissions requirements for the state's public universities;</li> <li>• tutoring in core academic areas;</li> <li>• campus visits;</li> <li>• support in completing admissions and financial aid applications;</li> </ul>	140	5,073	In the beginning, the University had a program for middle schools and one for high schools. This program combines those two efforts into one.
<p><b>Early Commitment to College (ECC):</b> The Campaign for College Opportunity sponsored Senate Bill 890 in 2008 resulting in ECC that encourages middle school students, their families, and their school to sign a Pledge that each will take actions that will prepare students for college.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> California Department of Education  <i>Funding:</i> School district resources  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/ps/ecc.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/ps/ecc.asp</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sign a Pledge, along with their families and schools, that identify requisite actions to prepare for college;</li> <li>• attend school-wide events that promote college preparation</li> </ul>	119	80,000	Each school that participates in ECC adapts its activities to meet its own circumstances.
<p><b>Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC):</b> Designed by high school and university faculty based upon data from the Early Assessment Program (EAP), ERWC is an expository, analytical, and augmentative reading and writing curriculum to prepare students for success in credit-bearing English courses as college freshmen. In 2013, a middle school version of this curriculum was developed that can be used by teachers after appropriate training.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> California State University  <i>Funding:</i> United States Department of Education  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.calstate.edu/eap/englishcourse">http://www.calstate.edu/eap/englishcourse</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• four modules for each Grade 7-11 based primarily on non-fiction texts developed through collaboration involving teachers from middle schools and university faculty;</li> <li>• training on using the modules</li> </ul>	Unknown at this time as the ERWC for middle schools was released in 2013	318 teachers have been trained to date; estimate for 2013-14 is 918	ERWC responds to a lack of alignment between English high school course content and faculty expectations at the California State University resulting in large numbers of 11 <sup>th</sup> grade students needing support to be ready for college courses.
<p><b>Futures:</b> Designed in 1990, this one-page resource contains a Six-Year Planning Chart and information on degrees, costs, and financial aid availability in the four higher educational sectors,</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC)  <i>Funding:</i> California GEAR UP Program, ICC, ScholarShare, and University of California  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.certicc.org">http://www.certicc.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revised annually to maintain currency;</li> <li>• published in English and Spanish;</li> <li>• translations into Hmong, Khmer, and Vietnamese are available on the website;</li> <li>• distributed to every middle school in the state</li> </ul>	All schools with 8 <sup>th</sup> graders receive one copy for each eighth grader	600,000 annually	<i>Futures</i> is sent to all middle schools with other resources and a letter from the Round Table that urges their use to support activities to prepare students for college.
<p><b>Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA):</b> Begun in 1970, MESA supports secondary school students in Grades 7-12 to excel and earn degrees in math-based fields in college.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> University of California  <i>Funding:</i> State Budget, college campuses hosting MESA Centers, foundations, and corporations  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.mesa.ucop.edu">http://www.mesa.ucop.edu</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• academic advising;</li> <li>• tutoring;</li> <li>• teacher professional development;</li> <li>• campus visits;</li> <li>• science competitions;</li> <li>• scholarships;</li> <li>• mentoring</li> </ul>	183	10,317	In addition to the 19 Centers that serve secondary schools, community colleges and universities support students to earn degrees in math-based fields.

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<p><b>STEM Learning Opportunities Providing Equity (SLOPE):</b> Funded in 2010, SLOPE's goal is to increase the proficiency of eighth graders enrolled in Algebra 1 through a three-prong approach that consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• project-based curricular units;</li> <li>• instructional coaching of teachers; and,</li> <li>• College and Career Awareness Curriculum.</li> </ul> <p><i>Administrator:</i> Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC)  <i>Funding:</i> United States Department of Education  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.arches-cal.org/i3">http://www.arches-cal.org/i3</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teacher professional development;</li> <li>• College Awareness Curriculum designed that is aligned to the curricular units and is relevant to students in a local community;</li> <li>• coaching of teachers weekly through technology;</li> <li>• summer camp for students in need of support prior to enrolling in Algebra 1;</li> <li>• alignment of curriculum with Common Core State Standards</li> </ul>	<p>27 schools in 17 school districts</p>	<p>4,125</p>	<p>This Investing in Innovation (i3) project is being viewed as a strong potential candidate for the <i>What Works Clearinghouse</i> that requires meeting of rigorous research standards.</p>
<p><b>Think College Poster:</b> This poster was distributed in order to inform students early in their secondary school careers about the relevant terminology and actions that they must take to prepare for college.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> California State University  <i>Funding:</i> State Budget  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.calstate.edu/sas/middleschool-poster">http://www.calstate.edu/sas/middleschool-poster</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distributed in 2013 to every middle school in the state through the packet sent by the ICC under the aegis of the Round Table;</li> <li>• schools and Academic Preparation Programs can order more</li> </ul>	<p>All middle schools</p>	<p>70,000</p>	<p>This poster is a new companion to the <i>How to Get to College</i> poster for students in high school that has been distributed for the last decade.</p>
<p><b>TOOLS Conference:</b> For several years, conferences have been held for middle school educators to share information and demonstrate effective tools, resources, and strategies that can support them in preparing students for college.</p> <p><i>Administrator:</i> Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC)  <i>Funding:</i> ACT, College Board, Round Table members, ScholarShare  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.certicc.org">http://www.certicc.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conferences in multiple locations in the state;</li> <li>• distribution of relevant materials;</li> <li>• forums for discussion of emerging issues</li> </ul>	<p>95</p>	<p>765                      secondaryschool                      and college                      educators</p>	<p>With a changing format, the purpose remains to provide resources, support, and tools to the decreasing number of counselors who assist students to prepare for college.</p>





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