

# JUMPSTART

## How does dual enrollment pave a smoother path to college for Black students in California?

From 2014-15 to 2019-20, the proportion of California community college enrollees who are high school students has more than tripled, accounting for nearly 7% of community college enrollment.<sup>1</sup> Despite this increase, only 16% of Black high school graduates in California's 2018-19 graduating class participated in dual enrollment courses while in high school.<sup>2</sup> In fact, most students in the state attend schools where only 5% or fewer of their classmates participate in dual enrollment.<sup>3</sup> Equity-driven practices that increase access to dual enrollment in California schools, districts, and colleges can pave a smoother path for Black students on the road to and through college.

### College aspirations and preparation

#### Access and requirements

Just over **half of school districts** require students to successfully complete A-G courses to graduate.<sup>4</sup>

However, **less than half (43%) of California's Black high school graduates met the A-G course requirements needed** for eligibility to the state's public university systems.<sup>5</sup>

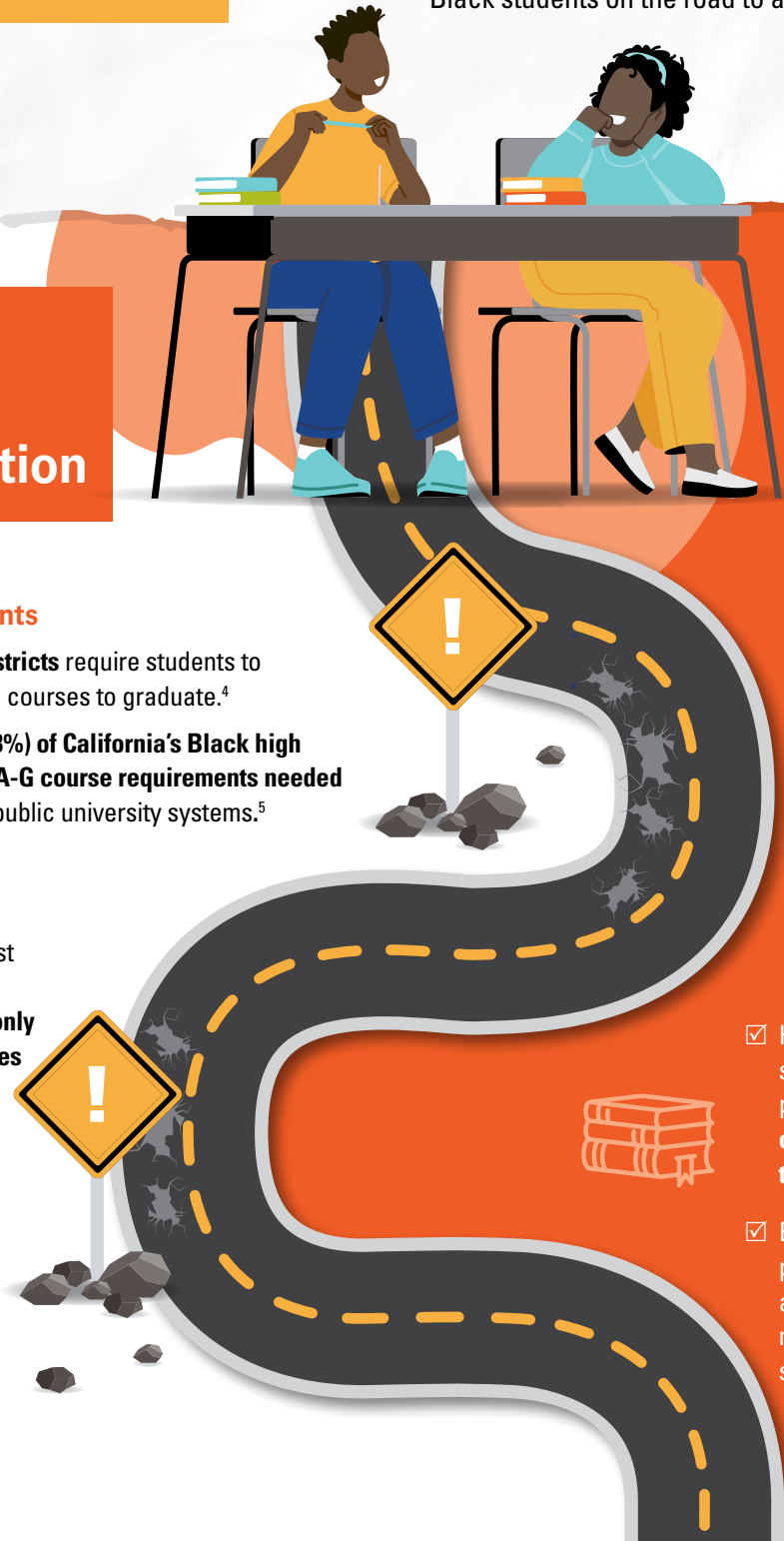
#### Transferring

Black students make up just over 5%<sup>7</sup> of all high school students in California, yet **only 4.7% of new undergraduates at UC are Black students.**<sup>8</sup>

Black students represent 7% of community college students who declare a degree/transfer goal but only 5% of students who transfer within 4 years.<sup>9</sup>

### How dual enrollment helps

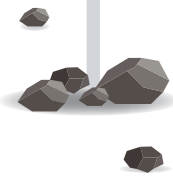
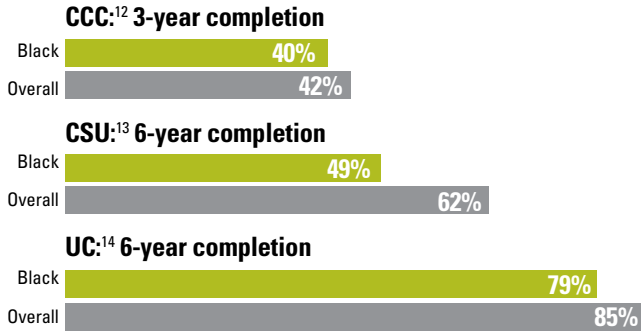
- ✔ High school students who take dual enrollment courses are more likely to **graduate from high school and are less likely to take remedial education courses in college.**<sup>6</sup>
- ✔ Historically underrepresented students in dual enrollment programs **accumulate more college credits, and are more likely to transition to a 4-year college.**<sup>10</sup>
- ✔ Black students in dual enrollment programs apply to and are accepted at more 4-year colleges and are more likely to be admitted to selective in-state universities.<sup>11</sup>



# Time is money

## Completion

Across the state's public colleges and universities, Black students graduate at lower-than-average rates.



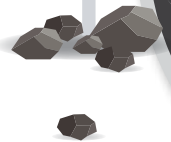
## How dual enrollment helps



- ☑ Dual enrollment students are **more likely to persist in college and complete a college degree.**<sup>15,16</sup>

## Cost

Black bachelor's degree recipients graduate from California public universities with student loan debt—the **highest rate of debt for all student subgroups.** And a **racially stratified labor market means Black professionals are paid less than White individuals with similar undergraduate degrees, making it even more difficult for Black workers to repay student loans.**<sup>17</sup>



- ☑ **Dual enrollment students save money:** Savings by college type, 2022–23:



## A longer, more costly path

Limited access to college preparation courses and supports in high school can mean Black students are tracked into non credit remedial courses, prolonging their path to college graduation and costing more money.



- ☑ Dual enrollment students save time toward earning their degree, **completing an average of 6.8 units of transfer-level coursework, or half a semester of full-time courses, before graduating high school.**<sup>21</sup>



## Benefits to students in dual enrollment

Black students in California report the following benefits as a result of their dual enrollment experiences:<sup>22</sup>

- ✓ Offering students a way to strengthen their GPAs as they apply to colleges
- ✓ Providing them a “leg up” as they transition to college by having a safe space to learn and practice important college skills
- ✓ Saving them time and money

Equitably expanding access to and supports in dual enrollment programs is a key strategy for strengthening Black students’ pathways to college in California. For more on what state leaders, school districts, and colleges can do to expand dual enrollment opportunities, including recommendations on how to leverage the state’s recent \$200 million investment in dual enrollment expansion and any future investments, visit

[www.JumpstartCA.org](http://www.JumpstartCA.org)

### Endnotes

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