



The Education Trust–West

Fierce advocates for educational
justice, pre-k through college.

June 18, 2024

The Honorable Senator Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3240
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 2723 (Irwin)

Dear Chair Umberg,

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California’s education system, EdTrust–West (ETW) is pleased to support AB 2723 (Irwin), which aims to bolster the implementation of the Cradle-to-Career Data System and ensure the transparent sharing of public-facing, de-identified data.

As an organization that advocated for the creation of a statewide longitudinal data system and have been closely monitoring the implementation of the Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C), we are deeply appreciative of the commitment to transparency and community engagement throughout the design and ongoing implementation of Cradle-to-Career. AB 2723 continues this work by refining the system’s statute to clarify privacy related to existing data collected by other state agencies, which is then shared with C2C.

AB 2723 ensures that the public can interact with their data in a way that responds to public inquiries effectively while ensuring the security of the data system. AB 2723 redirects public Information Practices Act (IPA) requests to data providers rather than the data system itself. The bill does not remove any rights of individuals under the IPA but rather ensures that those rights are exercised at the point of data collection/origination, where data providers can verify a person’s identity. Because C2C does not collect data but rather aggregates existing, validated state-level education and workforce data, C2C cannot safely verify an individual’s identity. As such, an IPA request could create a security breach by releasing public data to an individual that does not match the requestor. Similarly, C2C does not have the statutory authority to amend any records and does not have the legal authority to do so with respect to an IPA request. All of these requests can be made at the data provider level, and any changes will “overwrite” C2C’s existing record with the new submission.

The bill also corrects a drafting error that currently denotes “all” data within the data system as Personally Identifiable Information (PII). AB 2723 corrects this by making C2C’s definition of PII the same as existing state law, which protects data including names, unique identifiers (such as social security numbers), phone numbers, addresses, and employment history.

This change is critical to the data system's functionality. If “all” data is PII, then C2C cannot fulfill its statutory obligation to put forth public dashboards that display de-identified, disaggregated data. Even using the public coordinates of a college or university to create a map might count as PII under the current definition. This change would ensure that C2C still follows existing state laws and protocols to keep personal information safe while

producing useful tools and data dashboards for the public.

AB 2723's provisions are essential to the state's ongoing effort to provide access to quality data on education and workforce outcomes, supporting informed policy making and state investment decisions that benefit students, families, and policymakers.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support SB 1391 (S. Rubio) and respectfully ask for an AYE vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian M. Rivas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Brian Rivas
Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations

cc: Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee