



Vision-Aligned Reporting (VAR) Academy: Simplified Metrics for System Change 2026-28 Cohort

OVERVIEW

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, in partnership with The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group) and the Center for Economic Mobility at WestEd, is offering a unique opportunity for colleges across the state to receive support and strengthen their VAR implementation efforts. This academy will engage 10 colleges in a transformative journey to leverage and integrate the wide range of student success initiatives underway to achieve measurable changes in student outcomes across the system. All colleges are welcome to participate, regardless of their current VAR implementation efforts.

Applications to participate in the 18-month academy are due by Friday, Feb. 20, 2026.

ACADEMY GOALS

By participating in the 2026-28 VAR Academy cohort, college teams will gain:

- Tools to Leverage and Integrate: Braid current student success initiatives to improve effectiveness of current efforts, align them with statewide goals and increase impact on marginalized student success.
- Capacity Building: Empower college leaders to bridge inquiry and action, thereby closing equity gaps.
- Community of Practice: Foster collegial sharing of practices and innovations across California community colleges.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Scale Equity Efforts: Develop an action plan for implementing and institutionalizing student-centered work that shifts away from pilot projects to systemic efforts and connects the work of equitable initiatives at a campus.
- Data-Informed Strategies: Build readiness for equity-centered work through data literacy, particularly in reference to identifying barriers for marginalized students.
- Community of Practice: Connect with and learn from colleagues around the state who are implementing practices to scale equity efforts and streamline reporting and planning.
- Offer Feedback to the Chancellor's Office: Identify opportunities for enhancing VAR-related support and reporting requirements.

COLLEGE TEAMS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING FIVE ACTIVITIES

- In-person Convening #1, June 11 - 12, 2026 (2 days, Hilton Irvine/Orange County)
- In-person Convening #2, January 2027 (1.5 days, dates & location TBD)
- In-person Convening #3, June 2027 (2 days, dates & location TBD)
- In-person Convening #4, January 2028 (1.5 days, dates & location TBD)
- Regularly scheduled virtual meetings between the college team and VAR Academy coaches

ACADEMY COSTS

Thanks to generous support from the Chancellor's Office, the VAR Academy is free for college teams to attend. Colleges will be responsible for team travel costs to/from each of the in-person convenings, hotel rooms, and meals outside of the convenings.

APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE

To submit your application, please click on the link below. See also a [VAR Academy application worksheet](#) with a list of questions in the application. **Applications are due by Friday, Feb. 20, 2026.**

[Submit your application!](#)



GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

We invite you to learn more about the VAR Academy and how your college can benefit from participating. Sign up for our office hours at one of the following times:

- [Monday, Feb. 2, at 11 a.m.](#)
- [Monday, Feb. 9, at 12 p.m.](#)

If you have additional questions about the VAR Academy, please contact Dr. Laura Lara-Brady (LLaraBr@WestEd.org) and/or Dr. Giovanni Sosa (GSosa@CraftonHills.edu).

For more information on VAR, visit the [Chancellor's Office VAR webpage](#).