



**TO:** Chancellor Sonya Christian

**FROM:** Dr. John Hetts  
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**RE:** SCTP Task Force Memo – October 2024

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### **Summary**

In alignment with the Governor’s Roadmap for the California Community Colleges and a key pillar of 2030 Vision – ‘systems development to remove barriers at scale’, the Chancellor’s Office embarked on an exploration of developing of a statewide common technology platform, with attention to a wide range of possible options up to a Common Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution that could support statewide Finance, Student Information Systems (SIS), Human Resources (HR) and Information Technology (IT) modules by improving the user experience, increasing security, and automating standardized processes and reporting while allowing for flexibility at the district and college level.

The Chancellor’s Office had previously explored the idea of a Common ERP with the California Community Colleges Cohort Information Systems and the Huron Consulting Group in years prior. This exploration resulted in limited findings as only a small sample of districts were consulted, and the analysis did not account for the full complexity of the statewide system. The Chancellor’s Office then worked with stakeholder groups from across the system to identify districts and partnered with Accenture who interviewed 45% of the districts to establish the Case for Change and later analyzed 50%+ of the districts to provide an understanding of ERP workflows and processes. As a result of this analysis, the Statewide Common Technology Platform (SCTP) Task Force was formed to include statewide perspective and expertise on the current systems and processes as well as provide input on the possible path to a shared technology system and transformation. Over the course of seven months, the Task Force helped shape the transformation opportunities, collected feedback from districts on the feasibility, and narrowed the options for California Community Colleges to best go forward.

### **Task Force Formation and Visioning**

The Task Force discussed the districts’ current state, helping develop an understanding of district capabilities, strengths, and challenges. Among these challenges were disparate processes, policies, and procedures, inequitable experience related to technology, and slow adoption of modern technology. With this information in mind, the Task Force weighed benefits, challenges, and dependencies for various transformation options and considered how each district could benefit.

Following initial discussions about district challenges and potential solutions, the Task Force aligned on a vision focused on exploring a statewide technology solution that should be user-friendly, secure, cost-effective, and technologically scalable. The target state solution would aim to increase student success, increase access to data, improve operational capacity, increase effectiveness, and maximize efficiencies equitably across the colleges, districts, and system.

### Target State Option Exploration and Identification

After shaping this vision, the Task Force considered four landing points and how each could help address district challenges and provide benefits, such as completing MIS reporting, backfilling a position, and enrolling in classes at multiple colleges. With these scenarios, the Task Force provided pros and cons and additional considerations for how each landing point could better meet districts' needs. Task Force members were tasked with sharing the following transformation opportunities with their associations and districts and collecting feedback:

- Landing Point 1: Statewide Data Management Transformation. This opportunity would include building a statewide data management strategy inclusive of a statewide data governance structure and the **implementation of a statewide data platform (SDP)**, which is integrated with existing district ERP systems.
- Landing Point 2: Statewide Admin Areas (HR/Fin) + Data Management Transformation. This would transform the HR and Finance administrative areas through a **statewide cloud-based HR and Finance system implementation**, process and policy harmonization, new operating model development, and an SDP implementation.
- Landing Point 3: Statewide Educational Services & Support and Institutional Research (ESSR) + Data Management Transformation. This landing point would transform ESSR areas through a **statewide cloud-based student information system implementation**, process & policy harmonization, new operating model development, and an SDP implementation.
- Landing Point 4: Statewide Admin Areas + ESSR + Data Management Transformation. This opportunity would involve a full transformation of ESSR, HR, and Finance across the dimensions of People, Process, Policy, and Technology. This includes the **implementation of a statewide cloud-based ERP inclusive of Student, HR, and Finance systems** and an SDP.

Feedback demonstrated a strong inclination for the Statewide Data Management Transformation (Landing Point 1) but with substantial interest in the Full Transformation (Landing Point 4) from many members.

### Reflections and Next Steps

The Task Force helped establish the foundation and direction for the SCTP program and, for the first time, furthered a statewide discussion on a possible solution. They offered perspectives from their respective districts and associations and considered the best options for California Community Colleges collectively. SCTP efforts will continue and build upon Task Force contributions in two ways:

- Establishment of the Data Governance Advisory Workgroup (DGAW), who will help inform Statewide Data Management Transformation efforts, and
- Continued exploration of a full transformation through a Collaborative ERP Project with districts who have expressed an interest to do so

Task Force members were supportive of both paths and shared guidance and lessons learned for project next steps. Task Force members noted that the participatory process, facilitation, quality of analysis, and support were project highlights.