



**2026 REPORT**

# Common Cloud Data Platform

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Chancellor





California  
Community  
Colleges

**SONYA CHRISTIAN**  
Chancellor

January 28, 2026

Secretary of the Senate  
Erika Contreras  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Common Cloud Demonstration Project**

Dear Secretary Contreras,

Pursuant to California Assembly Bill 102 the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to release the Common Cloud Demonstration Project legislative report. This report summarizes progress to date on the Common Cloud Demonstration Project, including implementation status, milestones achieved, intended impacts on student outcomes, systemwide efficiencies, and state-level benefits. It also includes how appropriation has been spent or will be spent, identifies challenges and solutions, and outlines the Chancellor's Office plan for further development and potential expansion.

For any questions regarding this report, please contact Craig Hayward, Vice Chancellor of AI Strategy and Digital Transformation, at [chayward@cccco.edu](mailto:chayward@cccco.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian".

Sonya Christian, Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

CC:  
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Office of Legislative Counsel  
Department of Finance  
Department of Technology



# COMMON CLOUD DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

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Prepared By

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**

AI Strategy and Digital Transformation Division



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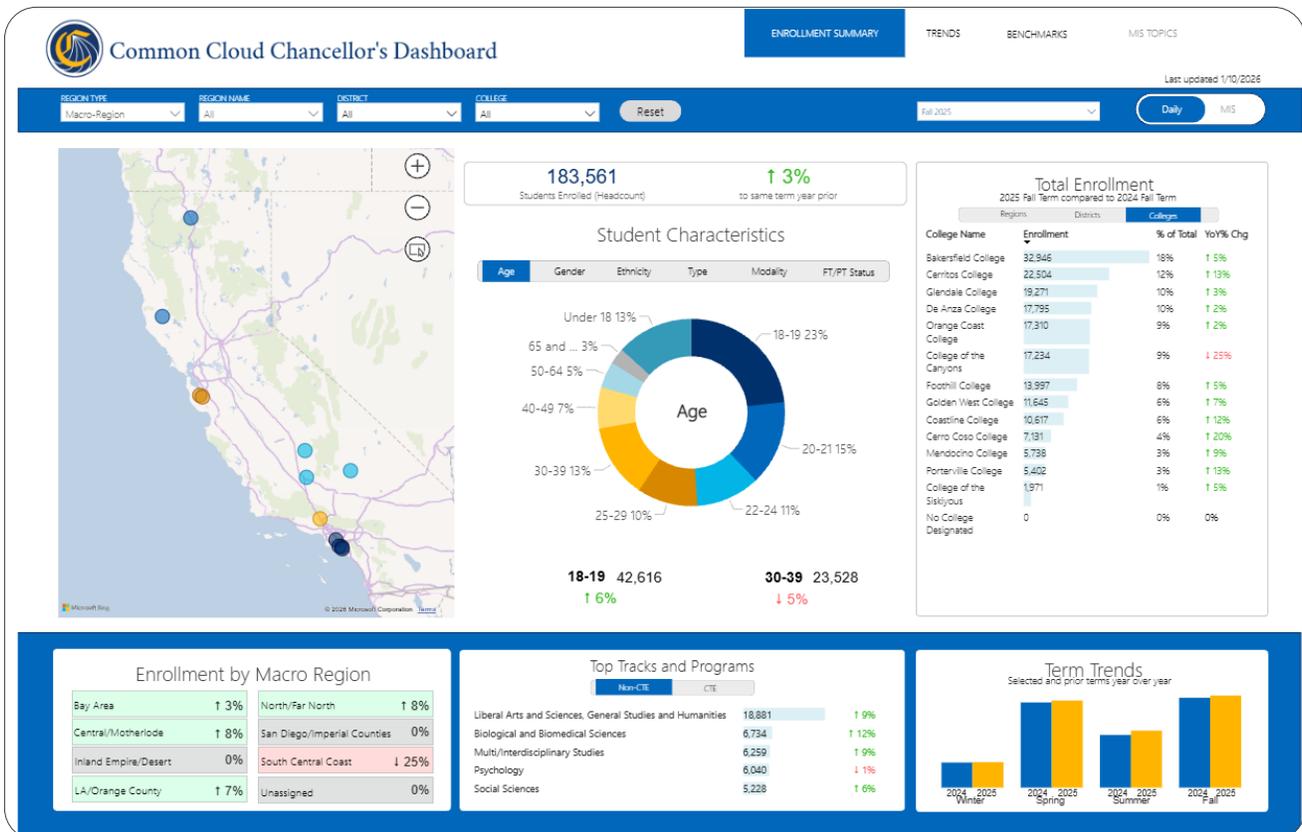
# INTRODUCTION

The Common Cloud demonstration project began in 2023 with the allocation of \$10 million in seed funding from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (Chancellor’s Office). An additional \$12 million was allocated in the 2025-2026 state budget to modernize data systems, centralize access to real-time data, and improve inter-agency collaboration. The core of the Common Cloud is real-time enrollment data sourced from the districts of the California community colleges. Creating a shared, secure cloud infrastructure for all California community colleges improves the ability to share meaningful operational data across districts as well as with other institutions of higher education, such as the California State University system, to facilitate transfer and improve service delivery and support to students. This initiative will replace siloed systems, streamline operations, and leverage cloud technology for better data management and service delivery to students across California.

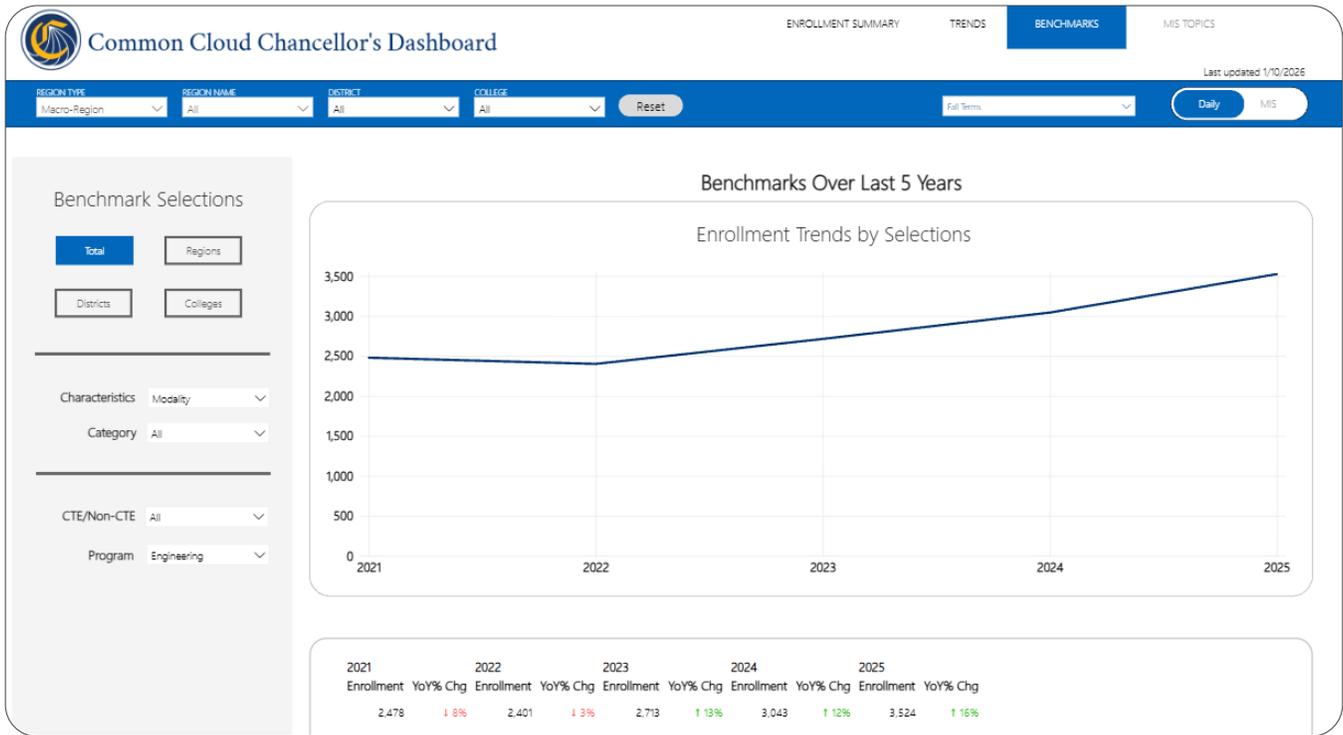
# THE PLATFORM’S IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

To date, the Common Cloud has onboarded 23 colleges with data flowing in real-time into a shared data. This data has already proven operationally valuable by providing an early indicator of current year enrollment trends long before the standard MIS data reporting system collected and processed that data. The development of the Chancellor’s Dashboard has been completed providing access to real-time enrollment trends across the initial cohort of participating colleges with disaggregation by region, program, student demographics, and services built in (see Figures 1, 2, and 3).

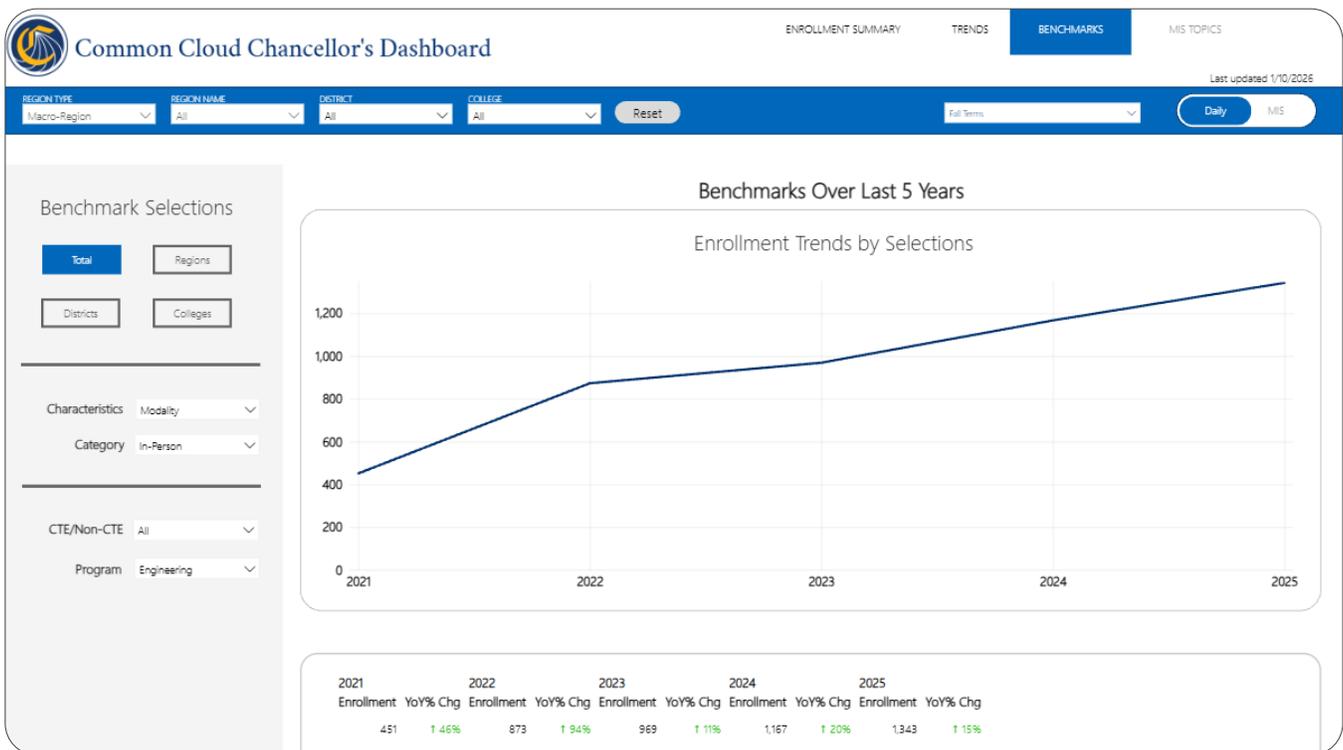
**Figure 1. Chancellor’s Dashboard Main Enrollment Management Interface**



**Figure 2. Example: Trend for All Engineering Enrollment Over the Past Five Years**

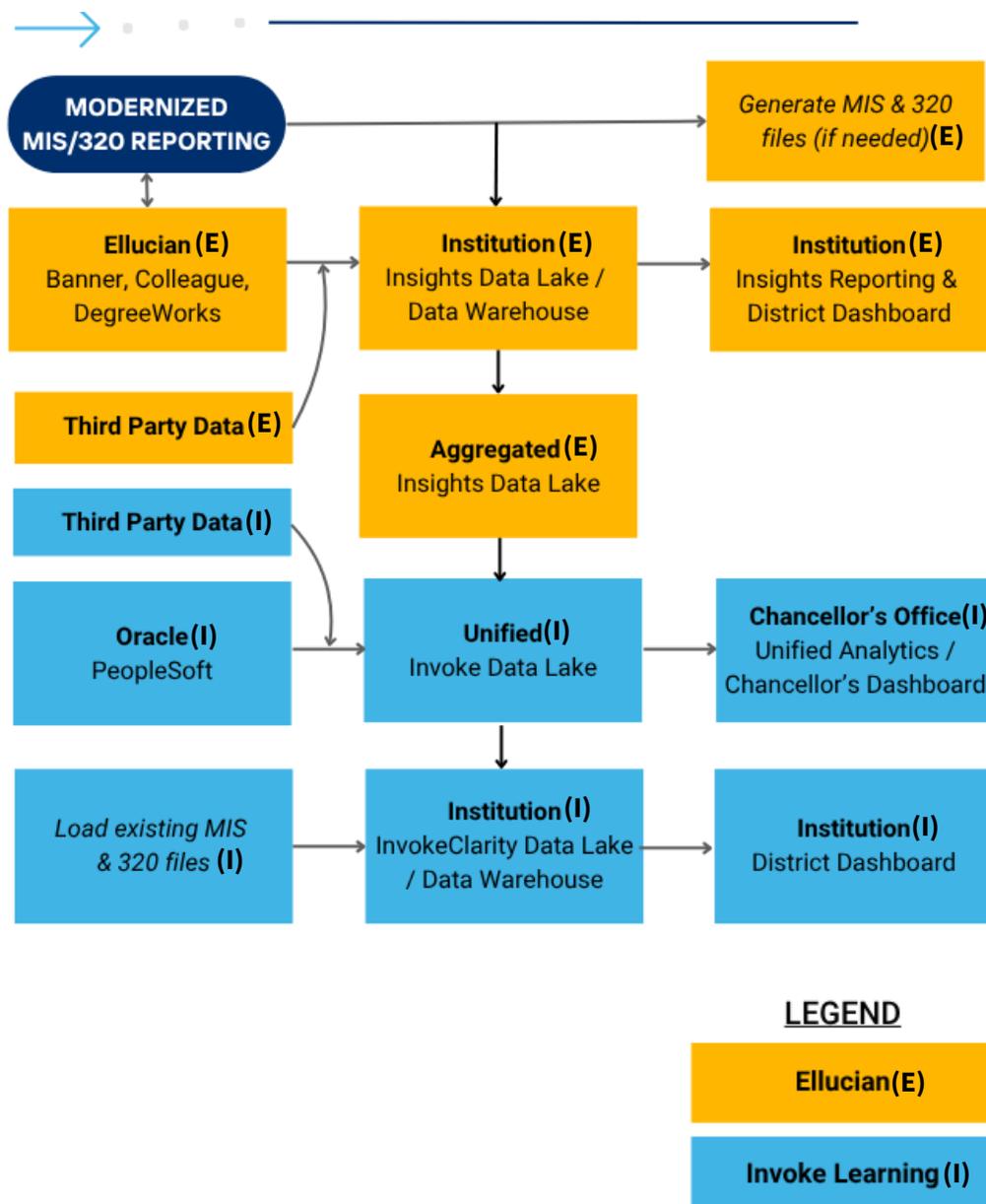


**Figure 3. Example: Trend for In-Person Enrollment in Engineering Over the Past Five Years**



Additional milestones have been achieved in adoptions, scaling, development of shared data lake, and orchestration of the required data flows. Two key technology partners (Invoke Learning and Ellucian) are building the infrastructure of the Common Cloud in accordance with the overall project vision and the milestones detailed in Figure 4. While the development of the Chancellor’s Dashboard is on track, there have been some challenges encountered in developing the functionality of the MIS regulatory manager which will introduce important operational efficiencies at all districts allowing them to complete their uploads of MIS data files to the Chancellor’s Office with less manual effort and with higher data quality. These challenges and the implemented solutions are described in the “Challenges encountered and solutions implemented” section.

**Figure 4. Common Cloud 15-Month Milestone Plan**



## INTENDED IMPACTS ON STUDENT OUTCOMES AND SYSTEM EFFICIENCIES

Given the innovative design of the Common Cloud, including its ground-breaking access to real-time student data and the integration of multiple data sources that have never been combined or analyzed at the statewide level, there are myriad opportunities to improve student outcomes and realize system efficiencies. An initial area of focus is providing a real-time data feed to the California State University (CSU) showing which students have completed an Associate's Degree for Transfer (ADT) and are therefore eligible to transfer. Intersegmental research has shown that up to 30% of ADT completers do not apply for transfer to the CSU. This data feed, which was called for in the State Auditors report on transfer in California, will provide opportunities to improve the number of and percentage of eligible transfer students who receive timely guidance on transfer opportunities to the CSU, thereby improving the efficiency of the transfer function from California community colleges to CSUs.

According to the Council of Regional Accrediting Commission, credit loss during transfer is a major barrier to completion for current community college students and for the millions of Californians with some college and no degree. The Common Cloud can help to reduce credit loss during transfer, which is a major barrier to completion. The Common Cloud helps reduce credit loss during transfer primarily by modernizing the data infrastructure to support real-time interoperability between community colleges and university systems, specifically the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems. By replacing fragmented, manual reporting with a unified data lake, the platform will ensure that student data flows accurately and swiftly to transfer institutions and planning tools.

One of the primary causes of credit loss is the “disconnect” between the data held by a community college and the data received by a university. The Common Cloud is designed to facilitate as near as possible real-time data-sharing between the California Community Colleges, CSUs, and UCs. The platform also includes a mandate to establish consistent data quality assurance and governance processes. By cleaning and standardizing data before it is shared with universities, the system reduces the administrative friction and translation errors that often lead to valid credits being questioned or denied during the transfer evaluation process. Also important is the elimination of lag, by moving away from static, manual reports to a system that refreshes data frequently (approximately every five minutes), transfer partners receive up-to-date transcripts and course history, reducing the likelihood of errors or outdated information causing credits to be rejected.

The Common Cloud serves as the central engine that powers various existing and new transfer tools. By integrating these disparate systems into one platform, the Common Cloud ensures that students and counselors are looking at accurate, consistent data regarding which courses count for credit. The platform integrates or will integrate data with:

- E-Transcript California: Automating the exchange of official transcripts.
- The Program Pathways Mapper: Visualizing clear course sequences so students do not take unnecessary classes.

- Mapping Articulated Pathways (MAP) Initiative: Ensuring course articulation (equivalency) is clear and automated.
- CSU Transfer Planner & CCCApply: Streamlining the planning and application process.

Another tool that is being integrated into the Common Cloud is the Program Pathways Mapper. The Program Pathways Mapper provides intuitive, student-friendly program maps and transfer pathway maps at no cost to all public institutions of higher education in California (i.e., all California community colleges, CSUs, and UCs). It is built on a database that provides specific detailed information about the course requirements needed to complete degrees and certificates. By integrating this database into the Common Cloud, we will for the first time be able to assess the status of individual students in their progress to specific degree and transfer milestones, evaluating their coursework across the entire system. As this data functionality comes online later in the project, it will be available for further innovation including campaigns to provide just-in-time support to students and help them stay on the path toward degree completion and navigate the journey efficiently and effectively. Credit loss often happens when students take courses that do not count toward their degree or transfer requirements. The Common Cloud addresses this by providing near real-time student analytics that allow colleges to enhance the sophistication of program mapping capabilities that are beyond the capabilities of most individual college districts. By analyzing student data in real-time, colleges can identify when students are deviating from their required educational pathways. This helps students complete their programs with fewer excess units, saving them time and tuition on credits that would otherwise not transfer or apply to their major. Additionally, many students take courses across multiple community college districts. The Common Cloud consolidates this data, ensuring that a student's full academic history is visible and counted, preventing them from retaking courses they have already completed at a different campus.

## **THE PLATFORM'S STATE-LEVEL BENEFITS**

The Common Cloud presents many opportunities to provide state-level benefits. State-level opportunities will build on the core infrastructure of real-time data collection to streamline and flag eligible or potentially eligible students with timely access to benefits and services. These benefits include:

- Strategic Planning: Forecast student populations for staffing, facilities, and academic programs.
- Budget & Finance: Project tuition revenue and align spending with enrollment trends.
- Program Evaluation: Identify growing or declining programs to guide development.
- Integration: Ability to provide current information on students that can be used to identify opportunities to expand state services to eligible populations.

## COMMON CLOUD BUDGET

The following two tables detail how the initial allocation to start the Common Cloud demonstration project has been allocated and spent (table 1) and how the funds appropriated in AB 102 2025-26 (\$12 million) have been allocated.

**Table 1. Budget allocation for initial tranche of funding (\$10 million)**

Deliverables/Tasks	Fiscal Year 1 (2023-24)	Fiscal Year 2 (2024-25)	Fiscal Year 3 (2025-26)	Total
District Grants (Deliverable 1 and 2)	\$2,200,000	\$1,740,000	\$1,740,000	\$5,680,000
Develop statewide data platform (Deliverable 1 and 2)	\$700,000	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$1,500,000
Personnel (Deliverable 1 and 3)	\$300,000	\$340,000	\$350,000	\$990,000
Project Management (All Deliverables)	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$300,000	\$1,100,000
Travel	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$130,000
External Evaluator (Deliverable 1,3, and 4)	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$200,000
Indirect Cost (4%)	\$ 154,167	\$ 129,375	\$ 116,458	\$400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,854,167</b>	<b>\$3,234,375</b>	<b>\$2,911,458</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>

Five deliverables were identified for the initial tranche of funding. The first deliverable focuses on the design, training, and implementation of the statewide Common Cloud. In the first year of the project, the grantee was responsible for developing a portal that provides statewide access to the Common Cloud, finalizing design requirements, and executing project management and technical subcontracts. This phase also includes identifying key project staff, preparing participation agreements with the initial cohorts of participating districts, and establishing strategies for stakeholder engagement, communication, and training. In the second year, the focus is on implementing the Common Cloud for selected districts, conducting training programs, and migrating components for at least five districts while incorporating lessons learned into updated transition strategies. By the third year, implementation will be completed for the initial cohort of participating districts, accompanied by ongoing support and a comprehensive review of benefits, challenges, and opportunities for enhancement.

The second deliverable called for the preparation and execution of participation agreements and subcontracts to support the Common Cloud demonstration project.

The third deliverable addresses staffing requirements essential to the success of the Common Cloud. The project lead also serves as a senior strategic advisor to the Chancellor's Office, guiding the design and execution of common technology solutions and supporting system-wide cloud integration. Coordinators provide operational and technical support, advising on strategies that enable statewide adoption of the Common Cloud and ensuring alignment with program objectives.

The fourth deliverable establishes reporting obligations throughout the grant term. A final report, due July 1, 2026, will provide a comprehensive summary of project outcomes.

Finally, the fifth deliverable encompasses overall project management responsibilities such as providing oversight and coordination for all grant activities, including user acceptance testing, execution of agreements, personnel management, and preparation of required reports. This centralized management approach ensures that all deliverables are completed on schedule and aligned with the objectives of the Common Cloud initiative.

**Table 2. Budget allocation for second tranche of funding (\$12 million)**

<b>Common Cloud Data Platform \$12m One-Time Funds</b>	<b>FY 2025-26</b>	<b>FY 2026-27</b>	<b>FY 2027-28</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Systemwide deployment of the initial infrastructure components required to establish the systemwide data lake and enable additional data integrations.	\$750,000	\$2,250,000	\$1,500,000	\$4,500,000
Support the continued deployment of the MIS and 320 enhanced reporting functionality, as required to assess viability for systemwide deployment and maintenance.	\$ -	\$1,725,000	\$ -	\$1,725,000
Development and release of additional enhancements to the dashboard, inclusive of data elements originally determined to be out of scope.	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$130,000	\$380,000
Support development of new integrations and establish additional connectivity to incorporate data from existing technology tools in the systemwide data lake.	\$350,000	\$950,000	\$1,050,000	\$2,350,000
Support consistent data quality assurance and data governance, including the evaluation of existing infrastructure and process, and ongoing data validation.	\$ -	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Project personnel and operations, including project leadership, strategic planning, advisory board, program coordination, as well as communications and outreach.	\$ -	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$900,000
Additional project operations, including but not limited to technical project and change management personnel.	\$171,600	\$610,000	\$610,000	\$1,391,600
Additional administrative fees, including but not limited to marketing collateral, technical and professional services, and conference travel.	\$ -	\$46,000	\$45,862	\$91,862
Fiscal Agent Indirect Costs (4%)	\$54,864	\$251,240	\$155,434	\$461,538
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$1,426,464</b>	<b>\$6,532,240</b>	<b>\$4,041,296</b>	<b>\$ 12,000,000</b>

The second tranche will complete systemwide deployment of foundational infrastructure, extend MIS and 320 enhanced reporting, expand integrations to key campus systems, mature data governance and quality assurance, and advance user facing dashboards. It will also add project and change management capacity, sustain strategic communications, and formalize an open solicitation for field and vendor input (framed as “Amicus Consilii” briefs) to inform decisions and accelerate adoption.

### **DELIVERABLE 1 — SYSTEMWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT AND DATA LAKE ENABLEMENT (FY 2025–26 TO FY 2027–28)**

The program will deploy the initial infrastructure components required for the systemwide data lake and enable core integrations that support secure ingestion, storage, and access to district data. The FY 2025–26 phase establishes the base environment and deployment patterns; FY 2026–27 scales to a majority of districts; FY 2027–28 completes coverage and optimizes performance. This deliverable emphasizes cloud architecture hardening, standardized ingestion pipelines, role based access, and operational runbooks. It directly corresponds to the “Systemwide deployment of the initial infrastructure components” allocation (\$4.5 million across FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28).

Key outputs include an operational data lake with documented application programming interfaces (APIs) and data onboarding guides; production ready environments for development, test, and user acceptance testing (UAT); and district ready templates for security, compliance, and operational support. Progress will be tracked through quarterly environment readiness reviews and district onboarding counts, culminating in systemwide availability by the end of FY 2027–28.

### **DELIVERABLE 2 — MIS AND 320 ENHANCED REPORTING: DEPLOYMENT AND VIABILITY ASSESSMENT (PRIMARILY IN FY 2026–27)**

To ensure the viability of MIS and 320 enhanced reporting across the system, the program will implement and validate these capabilities with representative districts and then scale to broader adoption. The work concentrates in FY 2026–27, consistent with the budgeted \$1.725 million for deployment and maintenance readiness.

Key outputs include standardized data models for MIS/320, validation suites, district playbooks for submission readiness, and a viability report that documents accuracy, timeliness, and scalability. Performance testing will be performed with production scale data and district specific edge cases. A go/no go decision for systemwide rollout will be issued at the end of FY 2026–27, accompanied by a mitigation plan where needed.

### **DELIVERABLE 3 — DASHBOARD ENHANCEMENTS AND OUT OF SCOPE ELEMENTS BROUGHT INTO SCOPE (FY 2025–26 TO FY 2027–28)**

The project will design and release additional dashboard features, including data elements originally deemed out of scope in tranche one, to improve decision support for districts and the Chancellor’s Office. Work will be sequenced to deliver early wins in FY 2025–26, expand capabilities in FY 2026–27, and finalize polish and usability improvements in FY 2027–28, aligned to the \$380,000 budget for dashboard enhancements.

Key outputs include user tested releases of dashboards with expanded filters, drill throughs, and export functions; accessibility and performance certifications; and adoption metrics captured through usage analytics. Each release will be accompanied by training materials and office hours to promote uptake.

#### **DELIVERABLE 4 — NEW INTEGRATIONS AND EXPANDED CONNECTIVITY TO EXISTING CAMPUS TOOLS (FY 2025–26 TO FY 2027–28)**

The program will establish additional connectivity to incorporate data from priority campus systems (e.g., ERP modules, LMS, CRM, student success tools) into the data lake. The deliverable spans all three fiscal years and is supported by \$2.35 million in the second tranche budget.

Key outputs include integration accelerators, mapping templates, and repeatable onboarding kits for districts; documented data contracts; and automated monitoring for data flow health. Integrations will be prioritized through a value/feasibility rubric and coordinated with district readiness to minimize disruption. Progress will be measured by the number of tools connected and the completeness/quality of their data feeds.

#### **DELIVERABLE 5 — DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE AND GOVERNANCE MATURATION (FY 2026–27 TO FY 2027–28)**

To ensure sustained data reliability, the program will formalize governance practices and institute continuous data validation. Activities include evaluating existing infrastructure and processes, publishing standards and stewardship roles, and operationalizing quality checks for key datasets. This work is funded at \$200,000 across FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28.

Key outputs include a systemwide data governance framework, a catalog of critical data elements, and routine data quality scorecards shared with districts and the Chancellor's Office. These practices will be embedded in onboarding and change management routines to preserve data fidelity as integrations expand.

#### **DELIVERABLE 6 — PROJECT PERSONNEL, COORDINATION, AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT (FY 2026–27 TO FY 2027–28)**

The second tranche sustains project leadership and coordination capacity to drive execution, stakeholder engagement, and communications. Funding of \$900,000 supports project leadership, strategic planning, program coordination, and outreach in FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28. A companion line for additional project operations including technical project and change management personnel provides \$1,391,600 across FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28.

Key outputs include formation of an advisory board, annual workplans, district onboarding schedules, change impact analyses, communications plans, and monthly progress dashboards for leadership. These functions ensure disciplined delivery across the portfolio and continuity with the tranche one management approach.

## **DELIVERABLE 7 — ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND INDIRECT (FY 2026–27 TO FY 2027–28)**

Administrative support—including marketing collateral, technical/professional services, and conference travel—will be managed to facilitate collaboration and knowledge transfer, consistent with the \$91,862 allocation. Fiscal agent indirect costs will remain at 4%, totaling \$461,538 over the three fiscal years. These funds cover essential overhead and compliance needs and are integrated into the delivery plan and reporting cadence.

## **DELIVERABLE 8 — “AMICUS CONSILII” OPEN SOLICITATION, ANALYSIS, AND ADOPTION REPORT**

To strengthen transparency and draw on collective expertise, the CCDP will invite districts, vendors, researchers, and practitioners to submit briefs of no more than 15 pages—Amicus Consilii—that address technical, operational, and policy considerations relevant to Common Cloud scaling. The solicitation will specify formatting limits, evidence standards, and a submission calendar, and will be promoted through system channels and vendor networks. The formatting requirements of the briefs will be structured to align with the Project Approval Lifecycle (PAL) and Project Delivery Lifecycle (PDL) frameworks. All submissions will involve (a) business analysis, (b) alternatives analysis, and (c) solution analysis, with clear approval and project readiness guidelines and assessments. Submissions will undergo structured review, thematic coding, and feasibility assessment. The program will publish a synthesis report of no more than 50 pages that (1) summarizes dominant themes, (2) identifies specific ideas adopted or piloted, and (3) documents actions influenced by the briefs (e.g., integration priorities, governance refinements, dashboard features). The report will be appended to semi-annual status reporting and included in the tranche two final report.

Key outputs include the call for briefs, a public rubric for evaluation, the synthesized adoption report, and an action log tracing proposals to decisions and outcomes. This process mirrors the constructive intent of amicus curiae while tailoring participation to the needs of technology implementation and policy alignment in the community college context.

## **TIMELINE AND PHASE ALIGNMENT**

Activities commence in FY 2025–26 with infrastructure setup, initial integrations, and early dashboard enhancements; intensify in FY 2026–27 with MIS/320 deployment, data governance, and expanded connectivity; and conclude in FY 2027–28 with systemwide adoption, support, and optimization for operational supports. The Amicus Consilii solicitation will open in late FY 2025–26, accept submissions on a rolling basis through August 2026, and publish the synthesis report by December 2026 along with an explanation of the project team’s final scaling decisions to ensure transparency and accountability. All timeline and phasing decisions reflect the appropriations schedule detailed in the tranche two budget table.

Semi-annual progress updates will continue (July 1 and January 1), incorporating deliverable level status, budget execution by line item, and district adoption metrics. The final tranche two report will document infrastructure coverage, MIS/320 viability outcomes, integration breadth, dashboard usage, governance maturity, and the Amicus Consilii synthesis with adopted actions. Budget adherence and variances will be tracked to the categories and totals outlined in Table 2.

Success will be evidenced by (a) systemwide infrastructure availability and district onboarding completion, (b) validated MIS/320 reporting with documented accuracy and timeliness, (c) the number and criticality of tool integrations connected to the data lake, (d) increased dashboard utilization and user satisfaction, (e) operationalized governance and improved data quality scores, and (f) demonstrable adoption of field and vendor contributed ideas via the Amicus Consilii process.

Additional information on the plan for the second tranche of funding can be found in the final section of this report, “Plan for full scaling and operational deployment of the Common Cloud”.

## **CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED**

Technological innovation always comes with challenges and risks. During the initial development and rollout of the Common Cloud’s MIS-supportive functionality, known as the MIS regulatory manager, several challenges surfaced that provided valuable lessons for shaping the next phase of development. These challenges were identified through input from Cohort 1 and have guided important adjustments to ensure success moving forward.

### **KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED:**

- **User Acceptance Testing (UAT) vs. BETA Confusion:** There was a lack of clarity between vendors, districts, and the Common Cloud team regarding the roles and expectations for UAT versus Beta testing.
- **MRM Infrastructure Misalignment:** The existing MRM structure did not fully align with district workflows for MIS reporting, creating friction in data integration.
- **Scalability and Performance Limitations:** The MRM encountered difficulties ingesting large data volumes from districts, impacting efficiency.
- **Perception of Limited Vendor Testing:** Districts felt they were serving as the first line of testing due to limited preliminary validation before handoff.

### **Lessons Learned and Our Response**

These challenges highlighted the need for agile planning, early design validation, and clear communication. Going forward these issues will be addressed as follows:

#### **Agile Planning & Development**

- More frequent demos for feedback.
- Early adjustments in the process (“fail fast” approach).
- Building flexibility into timelines to adapt to policy-driven changes, such as the Chancellor’s Office’s updates to Attendance Accounting Regulations for 320 reporting.

#### **Design & Test Early for Performance & Scale**

- Ensuring the system supports real-world data loads.

- Introducing faster and more frequent data load cycles.
- Refactoring the data model for the MRM-based and annual loads.

### Clarifying UAT vs. Beta

- Districts will not serve as Alpha testers; vendor quality assurance (QA) must be completed before district testing begins.
- Clear role definitions and expectations for all parties.

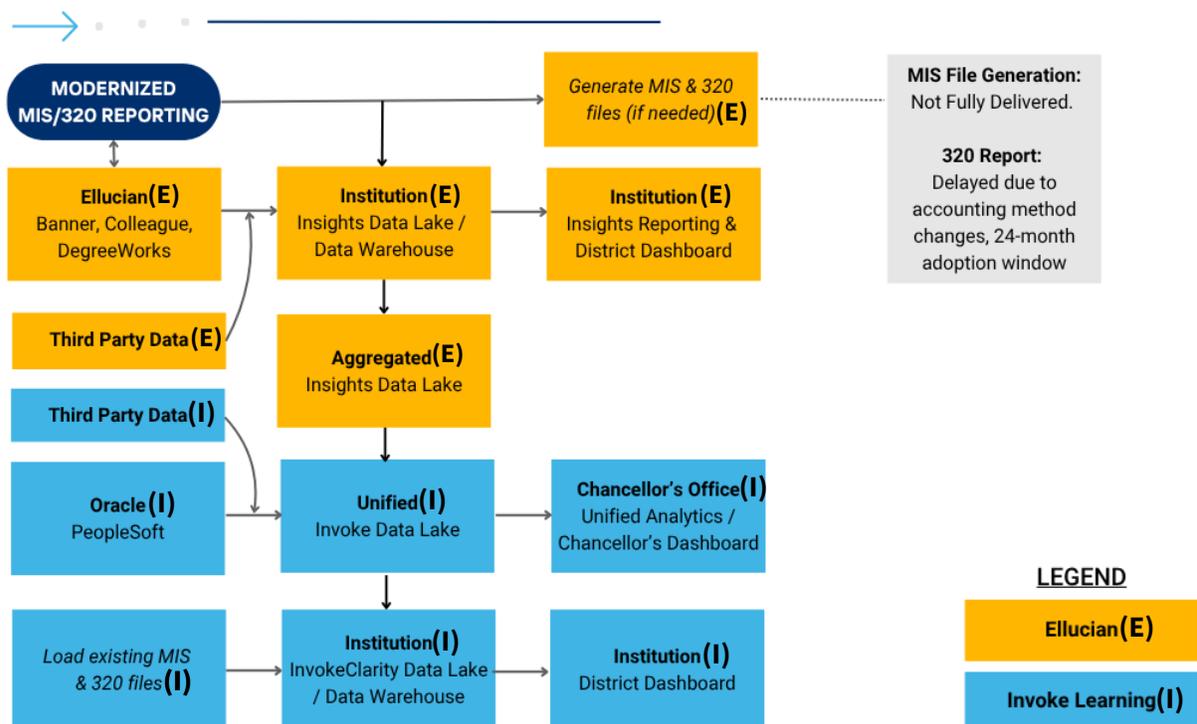
### Improving Scalability and User Experience

- Updates to UI for better usability.
- Reconfiguration of validation rules.
- Ability to view record/file counts upon load.
- Additional milestones for MIS and 320 reporting.

## MOVING FORWARD

Ellucian will conduct parallel testing with district engagement and feedback, ensuring robust validation before handoff. These adjustments reflect our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and delivering a platform that meets the operational realities of California’s community colleges.

**Figure 5. Common Cloud 15-Month Milestone Plan - Updated**



## **PLAN FOR FULL SCALING AND OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE COMMON CLOUD**

Included below are the details of the latest plan for the further development and expansion of the platform beyond the funds appropriated for this project as of July 1, 2025. We also reference the potential for a final tranche of funding to complete the build out and provide the maintenance and operation of the Common Cloud given the centrality of this project to the goals of the Chancellor's Office as expressed in Vision 2030. The plan specifies the project's scope, anticipated schedule, and estimated total cost upon full implementation.

The second tranche of funding (\$12 million) advances the Common Cloud from a successful demonstration into a systemwide, production grade service. This phase deepens infrastructure, expands integrations, completes MIS and 320 enhanced reporting to assess viability at scale, and matures governance and data quality. All work is coordinated with the Chancellor's Office and directly supports Vision 2030 commitments to data informed decision making, operational efficiency, equity, and student success. The plan below details scope, schedule, and a planning estimate of total program costs at full implementation, and it anticipates the need for a final tranche of funding to complete build out and sustain operations. Governor Newsom's proposed 2026-2027 budget identifies an additional \$36 million in one-time funding and \$5 million in ongoing funding to complete the build-out of the Common Cloud and provide for ongoing maintenance and operations. This third tranche of funding is critical to the overall success of the project as the current funding is only just sufficient to complete the initial development and build out. A fitting analogy for the current state of funding would be having sufficient money for the design and building of a large home but that home, once built, would not have furniture or a way to pay for the electricity, Wi-Fi, and maintenance costs. The proposed third tranche of funding is key to realizing the value of the infrastructure that we have painstakingly and collectively built.

Funding tranche two funds the systemwide deployment of foundational cloud infrastructure to enable the data lake, secure data pipelines, and standardized environments for development, testing, and user acceptance testing. It supports the continued deployment and validation of MIS and 320 enhanced reporting, ensuring accuracy, timeliness, and scalability before systemwide adoption. The tranche also delivers dashboard enhancements, including capabilities initially deemed out of scope under funding tranche one, to improve decision support for districts and the Chancellor's Office and for participating districts, and it extends connectivity by onboarding additional campus and state systems (e.g., ERP modules, application data, LMS, CRM and student success tools) to the data lake. To ensure long term reliability, the plan formalizes data governance and quality assurance, instituting stewardship roles, standards, validation routines, and data quality scorecards. Finally, it sustains project personnel and operations, including leadership, program coordination, technical project and change management capacity, and strategic communications and outreach necessary for district onboarding and broad adoption.

To spur transparent, field informed decision making, the Common Cloud team will open an Amicus Consilii process inviting districts, vendors, researchers, and practitioners to submit focused briefs on technical, operational, and policy matters relevant to scaling the Common Cloud. Submissions will follow a standardized format and evidence guidelines. The program will review, code, and analyze the briefs and publish a synthesis report of no more than 50

pages that: (1) summarizes recurring themes; (2) identifies specific ideas the project will adopt, pilot, or schedule; and (3) documents actions or design choices influenced by the briefs. The synthesis will be appended to semi annual progress reporting and used to refine the product roadmap, integration priorities, and governance artifacts.

Work from tranche one is already ongoing and work from tranche one will commence in FY 2025–26 with the establishment of the production grade infrastructure foundation, initial integration patterns, and the first set of dashboard enhancements. The Amicus Consilii call opens in early 2026 and collects submissions on a rolling basis through October 2026 with the report due in early 2027. The plan emphasizes FY 2026–27 for MIS/320 deployment and viability testing with production scale data, expansion of priority integrations, and the operationalization of governance and quality routines. By February 2027, the Amicus Consilii synthesis will be published to inform final scaling choices. The program completes systemwide coverage and optimization by end of FY 2027–28, accompanied by training, adoption reinforcement, and a final tranche two report documenting outcomes against scope and budget.

To safeguard reliability and trust, the Common Cloud team will continue participating in the ongoing Data Governance Advisory Workgroup and publish a systemwide data governance framework, articulate data stewardship roles, and operate continuous data validation for critical datasets. Change management activities (e.g., district onboarding plans, impact assessments, communications, office hours, and training) will support smooth adoption. Program management will maintain annual workplans and monthly executive dashboards to track progress, risks, budget execution, and district participation.

To date, the program includes \$10 million in initial funding (tranche one) and \$12 million in tranche two, for a combined \$22 million invested in design, deployment, integrations, and scale up. Based on current scope and the need to transition from build out to full operations, we anticipate a final tranche will be required to (a) complete remaining district integrations, (b) finish the backlog of dashboard and data model enhancements prioritized through Amicus Consilii and MIS/320 viability findings, and (c) establish ongoing, multi-year maintenance and operations for the Common Cloud. Using industry standard planning assumptions for systemwide cloud platforms, spanning final engineering, security/compliance hardening, performance tuning, district migration support, and maintenance and operations, the estimate for this final tranche is \$36 million with \$9 million ongoing. This range will be narrowed after FY 2026–27 milestones confirm the scale of remaining integrations, the MIS/320 go live scope, and the depth of ongoing service requirements. When combined with tranches one and two, the estimated total cost at full implementation is therefore \$67 million. These figures are planning estimates and will be refined as deployment data, vendor pricing, and operational metrics become available.

Success will be evidenced by: (1) systemwide availability of the Common Cloud infrastructure and streamlined onboarding and support for all districts; (2) validated MIS/320 reporting with documented accuracy and timeliness, accompanied by a go/no go viability decision and mitigation actions where needed; (3) expanded integrations including key real-time data systems (e.g., LMS, application) and program mapping, articulation, and credit-for-prior learning data; (4) dashboard usage growth and user satisfaction improvements tied to new features; (5) operationalized governance and data quality with published standards and

routine scorecards; and (6) demonstrable adoption of field and vendor contributed ideas through the Amicus Consilii process, with a clear trace from brief to decision to outcome.

The Chancellor's Office is fully committed to scaling and leveraging the Common Cloud. The benefits of this system are many and the need for a modern data architecture to provide timely data for reporting, analysis, collaboration, research, and provision of key services is clear as the current data architecture for the California Community Colleges system is 30 years old and is not capable of providing the real-time data integrations that are needed to boost student engagement, retention, productivity, and degree completion.

Tranche two positions the Common Cloud as a durable, shared system asset aligned with Vision 2030 by completing foundational infrastructure, validating mission critical reporting, broadening integrations, and institutionalizing governance and quality. With a modest, targeted final tranche to complete build out and fund maintenance and operations, the platform will transition from project to operational utility, delivering the reliable, equitable, and data rich foundation that California's community colleges require to serve students and communities statewide.



Front cover photo:  
Peralta Community College  
District

Photo at right:  
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Back cover photo:  
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