

Nine Faulty Assumptions:
Why the Administration is Wrong in Proposing to Eliminate State Support for Academic Preparation Programs and Reduce Financial Aid

The Administration's Proposals Would:

- **Eliminate** \$85 million in state support for Academic Preparation ("Outreach") programs
 - \$33.3 million from the UC Budget
 - \$52 million from the CSU Budget
- **Consolidate** (i.e., lose programmatic control) of community college block grants that support Extended Opportunity Programs (EOPS), Cooperative Agency Resources for Education, MESA and Puente
- **Reduce** financial aid for needy students by \$122.7 million
 - \$50 million from UC students
 - \$29 million from CSU students
 - \$32.7 million from Independent College students
 - \$11 million from all four-year segments by reducing the Cal Grant income ceiling for low and middle income parents
- **Re-direct** 7,300 freshmen from the UC and CSU to the CCC's
- **Dismantle** the California Master Plan's commitment to universal access and choice in higher education
- **Block** the capacity of students to have opportunities and choices to realize their aspirations and contribute to the state's economic well-being, particularly students from:
 - low-income families
 - first-generation
 - African-American communities
 - Latino communities
 - Native American communities
 - Southeast Asian communities

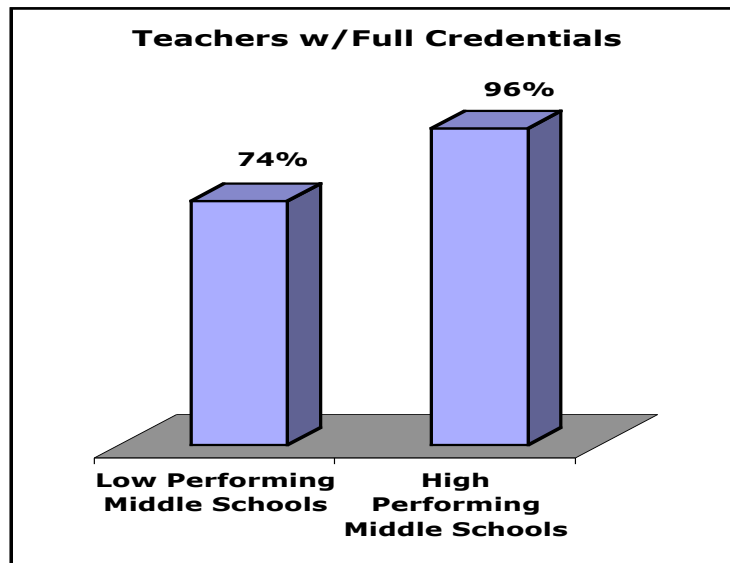
The Intersegmental Coalition on Educational Equity's Response:

- Support the retention of Academic Preparation Programs from all segments
- Reject consolidation of community college block grants for Academic Preparation programs
- Support financial aid funding for needy students at current levels
- Oppose re-direction of freshmen from the UC and CSU to the CCC's
- Counter policies and budgetary efforts that will interfere with the achievement of educational equity and diversity

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The Administration's Faulty Assumption #1: All K-12 students in California have equal educational opportunity. Thus, academic preparation programs are not needed.

Fact #1: Through no fault of their own, students in the lowest performing middle schools have access to fewer teachers with full credentials than do students from high performing middle schools.



For reasons such as this, high schools differ dramatically in the number of students they prepare for college.

- 20% of the high schools produce 55% of the seniors admitted to the UC

Faulty Assumption #2: “Outreach” programs recruit students to attend colleges and universities.

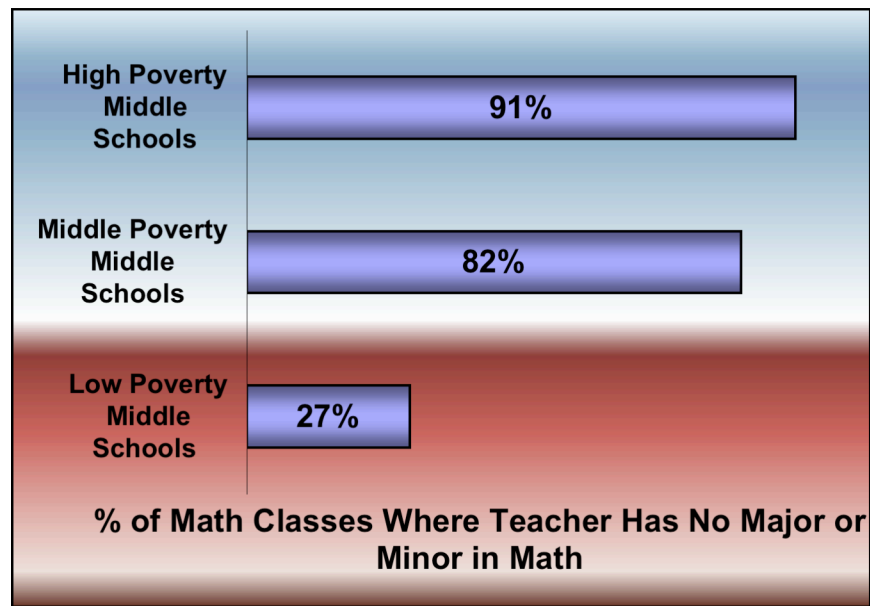
Fact #2: The programs targeted for elimination do not “recruit” students. They provide academic preparation for students from low performing high schools and community colleges. These students are overwhelmingly low-income and first-generation college students from inner city and rural backgrounds.

Faulty Assumption #3: Academic Preparation Programs replace outlawed affirmative action programs that focused on race and ethnicity.

Fact #3: The need for Academic preparation is not about race or ethnicity.

- 49% of all freshmen at the CSU require remediation in English
- 34% of all UC freshmen perform at an insufficient level on their composition assessment
- 91% of High Poverty Middle School math classes do not have a teacher with a major or minor in the field

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Faulty Assumption #4: Little is known about the effectiveness of Academic Preparation programs,

Fact #4: In recent years, more than 40 studies have documented the effectiveness of Academic Preparation Programs. They work! For example:

- Regularly admitted CSU EOP students – all of whom are low income and many are first generation college students – graduate at essentially the same rate (59%) as do regularly admitted non-EOP students (60%); Specially admitted CSU EOP students graduate at essentially the same rate (37%) as do specially admitted non-EOP students (38%).
- 71% of MESA graduates attend college
- Three years after enrollment 80.3% of UC Early Outreach Program participants are still enrolled in the UC. This figure matches non-EAOP students.
- Puente high school graduating seniors enter college (two- and four-year) at a much higher rate (83%) than that of all other California graduating seniors (49%)
- Puente community college students transfer to 4-year colleges and universities at greater rates (47%) than do their peers (27%)

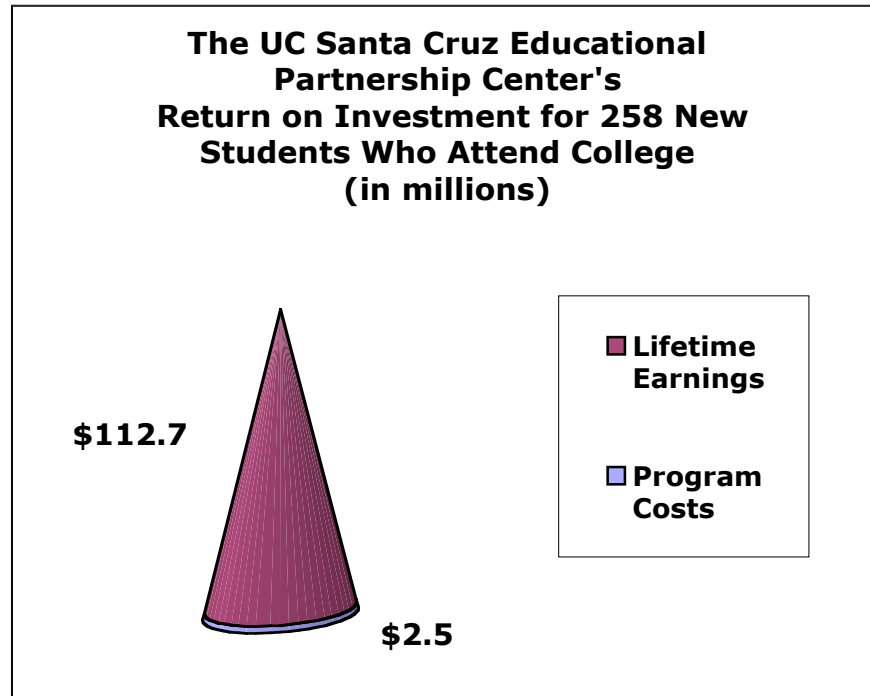
Faulty Assumption #5: Academic Preparation Programs are expensive and waste taxpayers' money.

Fact #5: The state's investment in UC Academic Preparation programs ranges from \$26 to \$220 per pupil per year.

- This modest investment is more than repaid, as Academic Preparation program graduates become highly trained and educated taxpayers.
- California's fastest growing occupations are professional and managerial jobs and these positions require at least a Bachelor's degree and often a more advanced degree.

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- Economists say that the surest way to keep such jobs in CA is to educate a workforce with the requisite knowledge and skills to compete in the global marketplace.
- Cost-Benefit analyses demonstrate that the value-added by outreach and related student development efforts yield 44 times the initial investment in terms of the additional lifetime earnings of students who participated in such programs.



Faulty Assumption #6: Higher Education does not need to partner with K-12 in developing academically prepared college students.

Fact #6: The depth and extent of the academic preparation challenges confronting K-12 students are so serious that only through active and sustained partnerships involving all education segments can the problems be adequately addressed.

- Only 69% of California 9th graders eventually graduate from high school. This does not include those students who drop out before the 9th grade.
- Only 24% of high school graduates are eligible to attend the CSU or UC. This does not include those students who drop out before graduation.

Faulty Assumption #7: The California Community Colleges can absorb 7,300 redirected eligible students from the UC and CSU.

Fact #7: Where will the enrollment capacity come from?

- Thousands of community college students currently can't enroll in classes because they are already over-enrolled or cancelled as a result of budget cuts!
- Why should eligible UC and CSU students who have met all requirements be denied a four-year college experience?

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Faulty Assumption #8: Consolidation of Community College Block Grants for academic preparation programs will retain essential services for underserved populations.

Fact #8: History has shown that consolidated programs result in the diminution of services for underserved populations and reduce the core focus of the programs that make them work in the first place.

Faulty Assumption #9: Access, diversity, and persistence are possible even if \$122.7 million in financial aid for needy students is eliminated.

Fact #9:

- 45% of undergraduates at the UC and CSU are already determined to be financially needy
- 60% percent of independent college undergraduates are already determined to be financially needy

A modest proposal:

The Legislative Analyst's Budget Report has proposed alternative cost saving measures that would sustain funding for academic preparation programs and financial aid. We propose:

- ① That these and any other alternative cost saving measures be carefully explored; and
- ② Every effort be made to reject the Administration's proposals to eliminate or consolidate Academic Preparation Programs, reduce financial aid for needy students, and divert freshmen students from the UC and CSU to the CCCs.

The Administration's proposals, if passed, will have negative consequences for the state, economy and higher education far in excess of the actual dollar amounts saved.

As a state, we are either going to invest and develop job creators and taxpayers or we are going to break the promise of the Master Plan and end up with "tax takers" who are not trained to contribute to our economy. □

For many thousand students, now and in succeeding generations, these proposed cuts represent the loss of hope, opportunity, and their very future.

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