LaunchBoard FAQ

What is the purpose of the LaunchBoard?

The LaunchBoard, a statewide data system supported by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and hosted by Cal-PASS Plus, provides data to California community colleges on the effectiveness of career and technical education (CTE) programs. This information is intended to facilitate local, regional and statewide conversations about how to improve students’ educational and employment outcomes.

What information is included in the LaunchBoard?

The LaunchBoard brings together multiple data sets to provide a more holistic view of CTE students and their progress through educational institutions and into the workforce. It expands upon data available in the Chancellor’s Office data system by pulling from additional data sources including K-12, transfer, employment and earnings records; labor market information; and results from the CTE Employment Outcomes Survey.

The LaunchBoard is divided into four sections:

- **Program Snapshot:** graphical reports and detailed data tables on college offerings, students’ educational attainment, employment outcomes, and regional labor market demand
- **Common Metrics:** measures that track student progress within the California Community College Chancellor’s Office’s Doing What Matters framework
- **CTEOS:** makes Career and Technical Education Outcomes Survey (CTEOS) responses more broadly available to faculty and administrators
- **CCPT:** a voluntary tool that supports data collection for California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT) grant consortia

Who developed the LaunchBoard?

The LaunchBoard is supported by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and hosted by Cal-PASS Plus. The concept for this tool came out of a series of statewide data meetings, with participation of nearly 30 CTE experts including college administrators, deans, faculty, technical assistance providers, and policy makers. The major organizations that have contributed to its design and
implementation are the Chancellor’s Office, Cal-PASS Plus, Centers of Excellence, the RP Group, and WestEd, with support from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. CTE practitioners vetted the tool during a two-year beta phase.

**How can I access the LaunchBoard?**

Access to college-level data requires a Cal-PASS Plus user name and password, which are only issued to employees of California community colleges, participating institutions in CCPT consortia, and Chancellor’s Office grantees. To request a password, visit [www.calpassplus.org/User/Login.aspx](http://www.calpassplus.org/User/Login.aspx).

**How does it work?**

*Program Snapshot*

The Program Snapshot tab enables practitioners to access information by program (including 4- or 6-digit TOP codes) or Doing What Matters Priority Sector (such as Health or Advanced Manufacturing), sorted by college or region.

Information is displayed in a visual format, based on common questions such as “Are we training the right number of students for available jobs?” “Are there equity gaps in student success?” and “Are students getting jobs?” Users can also drill down to more detailed data tables, where they can disaggregate results by 20 different factors including demographic information, special needs status, and prior education.

Each metric shows the most recent year’s figures as well as a three-year trend, regional totals, and statewide figures.

Users can download information into multiple applications and insert it directly into reports, PowerPoint presentations, and websites. Excel worksheets can also be downloaded to facilitate further research into student outcomes.

*Common Metrics*

This tab enables users to view information on how students performed on specific accountability metrics that were designated by the Chancellor’s Office Workforce and Economic Development Division. Similar to the Program Snapshot tab, comparison to previous years’ data, regional totals, and statewide figures are included.
CTEOS

The CTEOS Reporting Tool is intended to make Career and Technical Education Outcomes Survey (CTEOS) responses more broadly available to faculty and administrators. The CTEOS is a survey of former students in CTE programs, one year after they earned a credential or after they have stopped taking courses. Data can be cut by various factors such as students who completed, were skills-builders, and transferred, as well as by program.

CCPT

The California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT) LaunchBoard tab is a tool intended to foster conversations within CCPT grant consortia by bringing together information on grant outcomes and activities in one, easy-to-access location. The CCPT tab of the LaunchBoard is a voluntary tool intended to support local data conversations and intersegmental data matching. It is not the official mechanism to report on grant outcomes to the California Department of Education, the lead agency for CCPT.

Where can I find more information on the LaunchBoard?

A dedicated page on the Doing What Matters website (doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/Launchboard.aspx) provides print resources, recorded webinars, information on face-to-face trainings, and details about CTE Data Unlocked initiative—a suite of tools, training, technical assistance, and funding to improve the quality, accessibility, and use of student outcomes data and labor market information for CTE programs.

Can I get help with using the data?

Through the CTE Data Unlocked initiative, colleges that participate in regional LaunchBoard trainings in spring 2016 will be eligible to receive $50,000 in funding and 10 hours of technical assistance to support CTE data usage.

If the information in the LaunchBoard doesn't look right, how can it be verified and corrected?

Most of the data in the Program Snapshot and Common Metrics tabs are derived from college submissions to the Chancellor’s Office. If data are suspect, colleges can request assistance through the CTE Data Unlocked initiative for data quality.
screening and corrections. For more information, visit 
doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/LaunchBoard/Resources.aspx.

For data sources on workforce demand, the Centers of Excellence personnel can answer questions about the source and accuracy of those data. Visit coeccc.net for more information.

**Where do I direct questions or comments about the LaunchBoard?**

Send questions and comments to LaunchBoard@cccco.edu.