

California State University (CSU) Riverside County Direct Admissions Pilot



What is the type of admissions redesign?

Informed Admissions: High school students are proactively notified by a state postsecondary agency or system that they will be admitted to at least one four-year institution based on academic criteria (e.g., GPA), but are required to complete a traditional application process.

In which state is it based?

California

What state postsecondary agency or system sponsors the program?

California State University, in partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education

When was the program first started?



2024

Does the student or state agency/system initiate the admissions process?

California State University System initiates the process

What are the central characteristics of the program?

Qualifying high school seniors – those on track to meet college preparatory course requirements with at least a 2.5 GPA – are informed that they are guaranteed admission to up to 10 CSU campuses by way of a letter mailed to their home address. Students then use the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform to populate their application(s) to their preferred CSU campus(es); official acceptance letters are sent from the universities.

Program Scope 	<p>Does the program include all high school districts or only a portion? Is opt-in required?</p>	<p>In the 2024-25 application cycle, the program included only Riverside County public high schools. In Fall 2025, 20 additional districts across the state participated for the 2025-2026 application cycle. In October 2025, Senate Bill 640 was passed, which requires all public high schools in the state to participate as of January 1, 2026.</p>
	<p>Does the program support admission to four-year institutions, two-year institutions, or both?</p>	<p>Four-year institutions</p>
	<p>Which institutions are participating in the program?</p>	<p>In the 2024-25 application cycle, the following 10 CSU institutions participated: CSU Channel Islands, Chico State, Cal State East Bay, Cal Poly Humboldt, Cal Maritime, Cal State Monterey Bay, Cal State San Bernardino, CSU San Marcos, San Francisco State, Sonoma State. In the 2025-2026 application cycle, the following institutions were added: CSU Bakersfield, CSU Dominguez Hills, Fresno State, Cal State LA, CSU Northridge, Sacramento State, Stanislaus State.</p>
Eligibility Criteria and Application 	<p>What are the academic eligibility criteria for students?</p>	<p>High school seniors must complete all A-G coursework and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA.</p>
	<p>Are students still required to apply to postsecondary institutions?</p>	<p>After admissibility notification, students must submit applications to the CSUs they are interested in, and receive acceptance letters. Students must continue to meet minimum GPA requirements and graduate from high school.</p>
	<p>Is the application fee waived?</p>	<p>Application fee waivers are automatically calculated into the Cal State Apply application. Students eligible to receive the application fee waiver can apply for up to four campuses without charge.</p>

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<p>Data and Policy</p>	<p>What is the data source for the program?</p>	<p>The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) manages CaliforniaColleges.edu, a state-funded comprehensive digital platform offering postsecondary planning tools to students. This platform allows students to track their A-G completion and GPA, as well as providing career, college, and financial aid planning tools, and direct access to FAFSA and the California Dream Act application. Riverside County was one of their early adopters to have all transcript data uploaded to CCGI.</p>
	<p>Did the state or system adopt policy related to the program, and if so what does the policy include?</p>	<p>Yes. Senate Bill 640 was passed in October 2025, taking effect in January 2026. All public high schools will participate in the 2027-28 application cycle. 16 of the CSU campuses are participating in the statewide initiative.</p>

Information above is up to date as of December 2025