



March 15, 2017

Hon. Anthony J. Portantino
Senator, 25th District
Room 3086, State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Portantino:

We received your letter dated March 8, 2017 requesting we examine student transitions from secondary to postsecondary education. We met with your staff on March 8 to discuss the request. Based upon this discussion, we committed to examining best practices in this area. Specifically, we committed to exploring both radical new approaches to secondary-postsecondary transitions (such as models used in other countries) and more modest approaches (such as models already used in California and other states). We already have begun compiling information, with the plan to complete our review by early October. We also have committed to preparing an associated handout that identifies promising transition models. Our understanding is that we would present this handout at an informational hearing, likely held in November, with the key objective of the hearing being to solicit public feedback on the potential models.

Were you to decide to pursue one or more of the models presented at the hearing, we would be happy to reconnect with you and develop the next phase of the project. Depending upon your interests, phase two might entail examining certain implementation issues, such as changes California might need to make in the areas of K-14 governance, K-14 data sharing, and student assessments.

We have assigned Natasha Collins, our analyst covering secondary education, and Judy Heiman, our analyst covering community colleges, to the project. Please do not hesitate to connect with me or Jennifer Kuhn, the deputy of our Education Unit, if you have any questions about our work in this area. Below, I have included contact information for the project team.

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Sincerely,

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