

SB24-164 Institution of Higher Education Transparency Reporting

Overview of Transfer Data

January 2026



SB24-164: Five Key Elements

- ❖ Expand General Education Council (complete)
- ❖ Improve transfer within GT Pathways (complete)
 - ❖ Annual GE Council Recommendations (complete)
- ❖ Transfer admissions notification (complete)
- ❖ SMART Act reporting (now completed!)
- ❖ Student appeals process (ready to execute)

CDHE Implementation Leads

- Carl Einhaus, Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer (Main Lead)
- Michael Vente, Chief Performance Officer and Senior Director of Research and Data Governance
- Brad Griffith, Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation
- Christina Carrillo, Academic Policy Officer and Advocate

65+ Stakeholder Meetings Held Since October 2024

- **Internal CDHE Coordination** – 20+ staff meetings (academic team, reporting, rulemaking)
- **Townhall Prep & Delivery** – 9 CDHE prep meetings + 2 external townhalls held
- **CDHE/IHE Cross-Functional Workgroup Meetings** - 7 working sessions held
- **General Education Council Meetings** – 8 working sessions held + production of annual report
- **Institution-Specific Consultations** – 5+ institutional troubleshooting sessions held
- **More Stakeholder Briefings** – 15+ meetings among the Faculty Advisory Council, Admissions Council, Academic Council, Data Advisory Group, CCHE Student Success & Workforce Alignment Committee, and external nonprofits/thinktanks

CDHE staff estimate a combined .5 FTE staff capacity is required to support ongoing work for SB24-164 among department leads.



SMART Act Reporting

Key Elements/Mandated Actions:

Requires institutional reporting on transfer activity, including student completion data, for SMART Act presentation (starting in 2026)

- Components of the data will be provided by two sources
 - Institutions of higher education (Data for Summer Term of 2025)
 - SURDS (Data for Academic Years 2022, 2023, and 2024)
- Reporting elements are mostly limited to GT Pathways courses
- CDHE staff engaged a cross-section of registrars, admissions officers, institutional research officers, and academic administrators to operationalize terms to ensure consistent interpretation across institutions

Timeline - SMART Act Reporting



Reporting Requirements Listed in Statute

- **Transfer Volume:** Number of undergraduate students transferring into each institution and their sending institutions.
- **Completion in Time and Credits:**
 - Average time (provided by CDHE in years), and academic terms to complete a bachelor's degree for transfer students compared to non-transfer students.
 - Average credit hours attempted and earned for a transfer versus a non-transfer to earn a bachelor's degree.
- **Credit Acceptance and Application of GTP Courses:**
 - Total credits accepted and applied for GTP courses, general education, and other equivalents.
 - Credits accepted vs. not accepted, and applied vs. not applied to degree requirements, disaggregated by program.

Reporting Requirements: Location

- All files located on [“Improving Statewide Transfer”](#) page
- Under “Senate Bill 24-164: Strengthening Transfer Guarantees”
- **Transfer Volume:** “Summary of students transferring to and from institutions of higher education” data file download
- **Completion in Time and Credits:** “Average attempted credits, credits to degree, and time to degree for transfer students compared to non-transfer students” data file download
- **Credit Acceptance and Application of GTP Courses:** “Accepted and Applied GT Pathways Credit Hours Data by Institution” data file download

Data Overview: Completion and Time to Credits

- **Completion in Time and Credits** for academic year 2024, and all for time and credits to earn a bachelor's degree, total for all public 2- and 4-year institutions:
 - Attempted credit hours:
 - Transfer students = 148 credit hours
 - Non-transfer students = 132 credit hours
 - Earned credit hours:
 - Transfer students = 129 credit hours
 - Non-transfer students = 127 credit hours
 - Years to degree
 - Transfer students = 6 years
 - Non-transfer students = 4 years

Data Overview: Credit Acceptance and Application of GTP Courses

Credit Acceptance and Application of GTP Courses: for all public 2- and 4-year institutions for summer 2025 term (first term available for institutional reporting)

- Total accepted credit hours = 57,173
- Total applied credit hours = 51,335
- Credit hours application rate = 90%

Definitions:

- Accepted = Course received and meets conditions of GTP agreement and rules (including that student earned C- or higher in course)
- Applied = Accepted courses which are utilized to fulfill degree requirements

From Institutions: Most Common Reasons why Credits Were Not Accepted

Minimum Grade Requirement

Credits with grades below C- (e.g., D, F, W) were universally rejected.

Duplicate Credit

Institutions avoid awarding credit for courses already completed or previously transferred.

Age of Credits

GT Pathways courses have a 10-year transfer guarantee if completed with a C- or better. Older credits, especially those in STEM or selective programs, were not accepted.

Residency & Credit Limits

Policies such as **25% residency requirements** or **maximum transfer caps** (e.g., 90 credits for bachelor's degrees) prevent acceptance of additional credits.

Course Evaluation Issues

Missing course descriptions or inability to verify course content against catalog standards, especially credit for prior learning.

From Institutions: Most Common Reasons why Credits Were Not Applied

Degree Plan Incompatibility

Courses do not fit the requirements of the declared program, especially in structured or accredited programs (e.g., Nursing, BAS).

Elective Overflow

Students with many credits exceed elective capacity; extra credits remain unused.

General Education Already Met

GT Pathways courses duplicate requirements already satisfied by prior coursework.

Program Changes or Undeclared Majors

Students changing majors or not declaring a program makes some credits irrelevant.

Repeat Courses

Students retake courses for better grades or due to outdated knowledge.

A group of graduates in silhouette stands on a hill at sunset, throwing their caps into the air. The caps are scattered in a semi-circle above the group. The word "Questions?" is written in white text in the center of the image.

Questions?

Contact Info

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Thank You!

SB24-164

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