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April 5, 2016

The Honorable Mark Leno  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Leno:

Pursuant to Section 10803 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on the *Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier*.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President Debora Obley would be pleased to speak with you. She can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9112, or by email at [Debora.Obley@ucop.edu](mailto:Debora.Obley@ucop.edu).

Yours very truly,

  
Janet Napolitano  
President

Enclosure

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable Marty Block, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Ms. Anita Lee)  
(Attn: Ms. Cheryl Black)  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Ms. Amy Rutschow)  
Ms. Peggy Collins, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. Jim Lasky, Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. Daniel Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Michael Cohen, Department of Finance  
Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance

Mr. Christian Osmena, Department of Finance  
Ms. Maritza Urquiza, Department of Finance  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Mr. Mac Taylor, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Mr. Jason Constantouros, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock  
Vice President Pamela Brown  
Associate Vice President Debora Obley  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez  
Executive Director Jenny Kao  
Executive Director Kieran Flaherty  
Director David Alcocer  
Manager Bruce Kennedy  
Executive Advisor Marsha Sato

# Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier

Legislative Report

April 2016



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Report on the Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 10803 of the Education Code, which states:

“10803. (a) The Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University shall each establish a process by which colleges and universities within those systems issue, maintain, and report information using the unique statewide pupil identifiers specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (e) of Section 60900.

(b) Annually, on or before April 1, the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University shall provide a progress report to the Governor and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The report shall include a detailed timeline for the implementation, maintenance, and use of the unique statewide pupil identifiers pursuant to subdivision (a).”

This document is the annual report responding to this legislative request.

#### I. Background

The move to adopt a unique Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) paves the way for longitudinally-linked student-level data. The ability for the University of California (UC) to more accurately track students over time will prove an invaluable tool for assessing student progress in relation to academic preparation, participation in special programs, as well as campus outreach efforts. In addition, the SSID will facilitate a more comprehensive assessment of graduation and retention rates as students move across segments, as well as employment trends (for graduates and non-graduates alike). In the absence of such an identifier UC has relied on the use of “fuzzy matches”, which use a combination of information about a student to uniquely identify an individual.

#### II. Identifiers

UC began collection of the SSID by requesting it from applicants on the Undergraduate Application beginning with the Fall 2007 admission cycle (November 2006). The SSID has been kept as an optional item on the application as many UC applicants are not from California and private schools do not assign one. Since the 2007-08 academic year, the SSID has been routinely pulled into the UC Corporate Student System from the application database. Including the 2016 admissions cycle underway, UC now has data for nine entering cohorts. Each year approximately 70% of California resident applicants report their SSID; however, no validation is applied since no validating source is available. Each year, over 80% of students from public schools submit a SSID. Approximately 87% of the 2015 entering cohort from California public high schools reported an SSID. Students enrolled in private high schools may have an SSID if they attended a public school prior. Reports from our call center lead us to believe that California students are generally unaware of their SSID or where to find it. Some California schools print a student’s SSID on the report card or transcripts while others do not release the number to students. Overall, student awareness and reporting of their SSID seems to be increasing. Since we have not validated the self-reported SSID, we have not yet used this information

to match student records across K-12 and the California higher education system, and we are still relying on historical methodologies for uniquely identifying students.

In addition, the University of California's State Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) programs have a data collection system that allows for SSIDs to be reported by students, stored, and used in the analysis of student outcomes. For 2014-15, roughly 40.5%<sup>1</sup> (26,428 out of 65,189) participant records reported an ID number in the SSID field. Since there is no way to validate SSID, it is unclear what percentage of these numbers is valid. Some SSIDs are obtained through Transcript Evaluation Service (TES) but not all students are included. As with admissions, some students are not aware of their SSIDs when participating in UC programs. When it is available, UC's Office of Diversity and Engagement does access SSID data stored in the UC Corporate Student System. We will be able to match participants in UC's K-12 academic preparation programs with students in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) after it is fully developed.

III. Detailed timeline for the implementation, maintenance, and use of the unique statewide pupil identifiers:

As stated above, the SSID has already been incorporated into UC student data systems and acquisition can now be tracked over time. Usefulness of the SSID is limited until the data are more accurately reported by K-12 schools and more readily available in electronic form. UC is participating in efforts to facilitate the sharing of student data between the three public segments of higher education (University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges) and K-12 institutions (California Department of Education - CDE). The goal is to directly match UC and CDE student data, providing a way to validate self-reported SSID. Access to CDE student SSID data will also provide UC a means for deriving an SSID for those who did not provide this information on their undergraduate applications. Attaining this goal continues to be dependent on getting SSID included on all student high school transcripts, ideally electronic submission of all such transcripts (eTran), and provision of a comprehensive dataset of valid SSID's matched with student name and high school from CDE (so data received can be validated).

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to AY2014, UC requested that SAPEP programs report SSIDs but allowed reporting of local high school ids if SSIDs were not available. However, in AY2014, only SSIDs were accepted, resulting in the reporting rate dropping from 52.5% in AY2013 to 40.5% in AY2013.