



“I’ve been in jazz and dance classes since the third grade.

My mom and dad made sure my brother, my sister and I were all in arts and music because it helps us in other classes, connects us with our culture and unites our family.”



“I like helping my students conquer the critical areas of math because it was

Algebra that influenced me to go into engineering.”



“As a parent, I would like my child to benefit from an enriched curriculum where she can

do some things hands-on because that’s the way my child learns best.”



STATE PRIORITY AREA: CONDITIONS OF LEARNING

Course Access

Course access means a broad course of study in required subject areas is offered for all students. This includes math, social science, science, visual and performing arts, health, physical education, career and technical education and others, regardless of what school students attend or where they live. When schools provide wide access to many different classes, students receive a full learning experience, are more likely to graduate, and are better prepared for higher education, employment and their roles and responsibilities as adults later in life.

Some ways schools can measure course access include assessing:

- The number of students enrolled in a broad course of study that includes core subject areas.
- The number of programs and services in core subject areas developed and provided for students with greater needs such as low-income students, English Language Learners and foster youth.
- The number of students enrolled in all required courses for admittance to a four-year college.

Learn more – get engaged!

- The University of California, “The A-G Guide”: www.ucop.edu/agguide/
- Los Angeles County Office of Education, Multilingual Academic Support: mas.lacoe.edu/content/
- California Department of Education, Career Technical Education: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/
- California Alliance for Arts Education: www.artsed411.org
- California State PTA: www.capta.org/lcff
- Also, be sure to check out your local school district’s website.

Key Questions to Ask About Course Access

1. **What classes are currently being offered to our students?** Do we provide a broad course of study to all students to ensure student success?
2. **How well are students across all student groups doing in general and in the core academic subjects?** Do we offer multilingual academic support for our students?
3. **How will we know if the school district is meeting the goal of all students taking a full range of courses?** What kind of measurements would make sense? Are there other forms of measurement we can try?
4. **What courses are available to better prepare students for 21st century careers and for the roles and responsibilities of civic engagement?** How do we partner with local colleges and universities as well as other community partners to provide pathways for students?
5. **What strategies do we have in place to inform and engage parents in course selection, career pathways and college planning for their student?** Do parents have regular opportunities to discuss what their child is learning with teachers and how they can best support student learning at home?