# Pathways to College Completion in the San Joaquin Valley

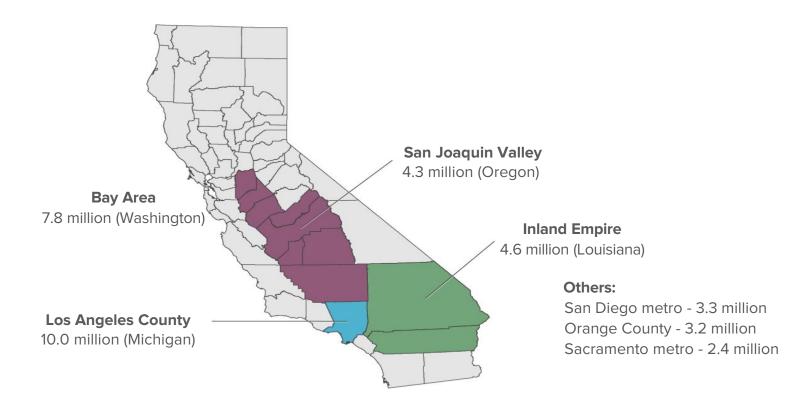
August 20, 2024

Olga Rodriguez



Supported with funding from College Futures Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Sutton Family Fund

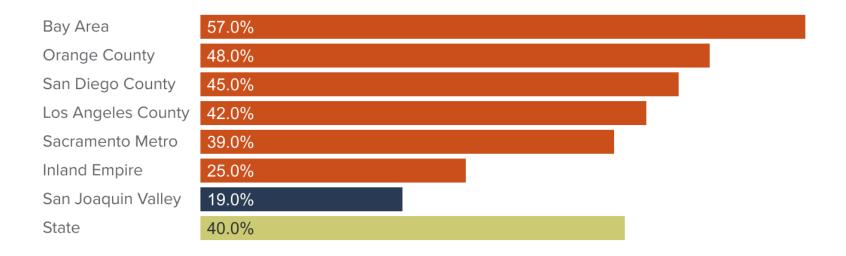
### One of California's most populated regions





### Low bachelor's degree attainment

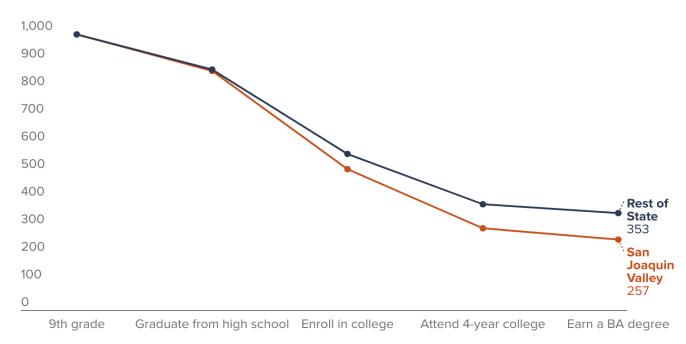
Percent of 25–54-year-olds with at least a bachelor's degree





### High school grads less likely to finish college

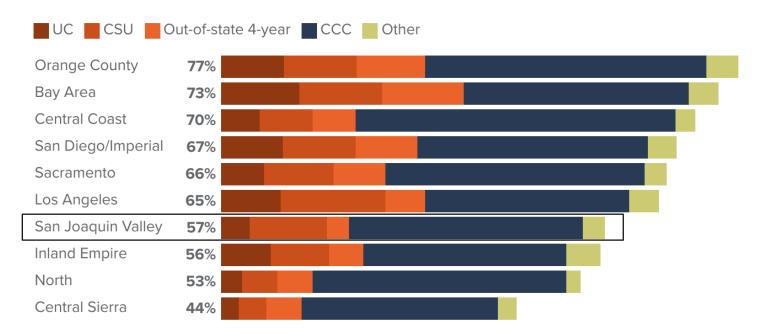
Out of 1,000 California 9th graders, numbers reaching key milestones





### **Especially low four-year college-going rates**

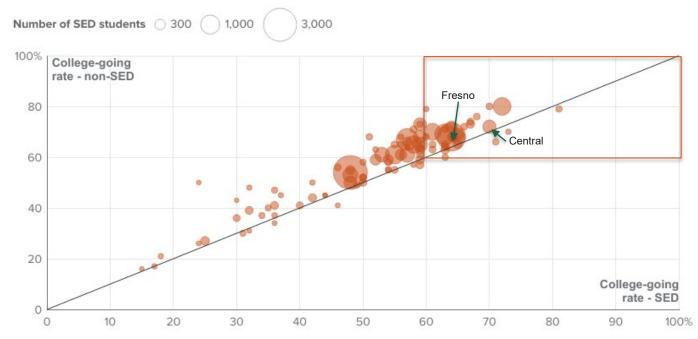
College-going rate of recent high school graduates, 2020–21





### Districts' college-going rates vary widely

College-going rates by school district (SED = Socioeconomically Disadvantaged)





#### Low completion of UC/CSU college prep courses

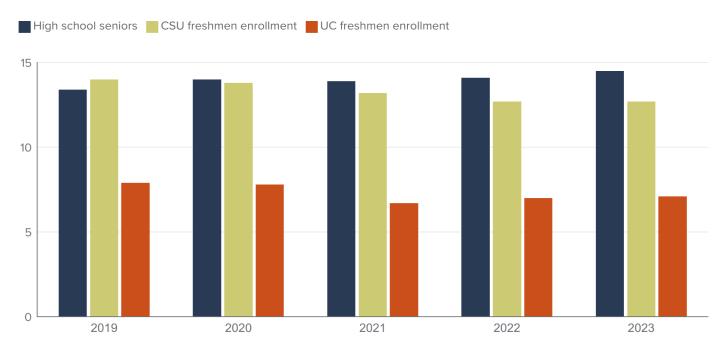
Share of high school graduates completing A–G courses, 2022–23

State	52.5%
San Joaquin Valley	38.9%
Fresno	47.0%
Madera	45.1%
Tulare	39.2%
Kings	39.0%
Kern	36.2%
Stanislaus	36.0%
San Joaquin	35.2%
Merced	32.8%



### Underrepresented at UC and recently CSU

Share of California freshmen students from San Joaquin Valley high schools





#### Lower transfer rates

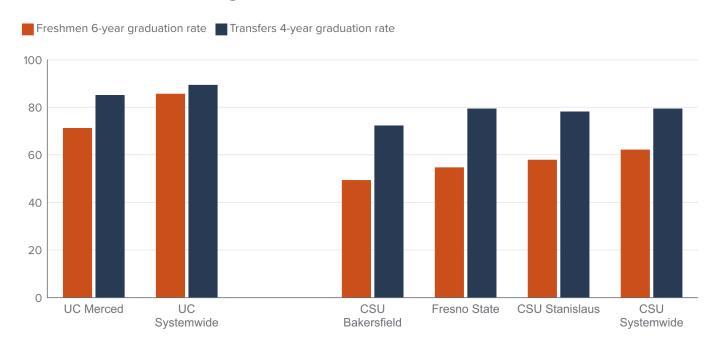
Six-year transfer rate among first-time students, 2014–15 cohort

State	40.0%	
San Joaquin Valley	35.1%	
West Kern CCD	41.2%	
Sequoias CCD	38.1%	
West Hills CCD	37.2%	
State Center CCD	36.6%	
San Joaquin Delta CCD	34.5%	
Merced CCD	34.2%	
Yosemite CCD	33.1%	
Kern CCD	32.3%	



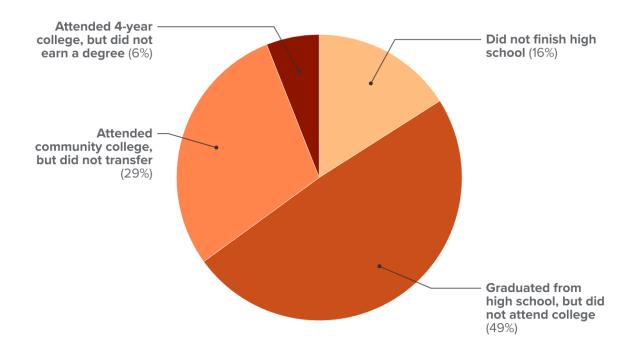
### Lower graduation rates at SJV UC/CSUs

Graduation rates among first-time freshmen and transfers from CCC





### Where do SJV students fall off the path?





### Insights from educational leaders

- Early and ongoing awareness of college and career readiness
- Aligning high school graduation with college readiness requirements
- Expanded access to dual enrollment courses
- College knowledge support for students and families
- Cost and location affect choice



#### Recommendations

- Improving preparation in high school and community college
- Expanding freshman and transfer access to CSU and UC
- Broadening regional coordination and collaboration
- Supporting place-bound students
- Raising persistence and graduation at four-year universities
- Increasing program evaluation and data sharing

## **Audience Q&A**

PPICeventquestions@gmail.com





#### Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

Olga Rodriguez (rodriguez@ppic.org)
Hans Johnson (johnson@ppic.org)

Thank you for your interest in this work.

