



TheRPGroup

Advocacy & Policy Platform

Adopted January 2026

The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan team made up of a dedicated Board of Directors and staff, working together with a shared and resolute goal: to increase the success of California community colleges and beyond.

Through collaboration and commitment to authenticity and quality, our work is focused on promoting inspired futures for California community college (CCC) students in important areas such as equity, success, completion, and employment. We are uniquely positioned to strengthen the ability of CCCs to discover and undertake high-quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision-making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.



Photo by Mission College

Mission

The RP Group is a leader that supports equitable outcomes for minoritized and marginalized students through race-conscious, equity-minded research, planning, and professional development. We uplift student voices and empower researchers and planners to improve institutional effectiveness by dismantling systemic barriers and injustices.

Vision

The RP Group envisions itself as a change agent at the local, state, and national levels that addresses longstanding injustices to ensure that students' demographics do not predict their postsecondary success.



Photo by Mission College

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To turn The RP Group's Mission and Vision into action and help support the ever-changing needs of students in the community college system, The RP Group will focus its advocacy efforts on the following key areas:

Commitment to Equity and Elevating Student Voice

To explicitly address systemic barriers and center student narratives, The RP Group will support policy efforts that are based on race-conscious data and equity-minded research practices and that elevate student experience and ensure student involvement and representation in institutional research and planning.



Uplifting the IRPE Profession and Supporting IRPE Professionals

The RP Group will support policies that elevate the vital work of institutional research, planning, and effectiveness (IRPE) professionals, involve IRPE representatives in state and local decision-making, and ensure essential professional development opportunities.

Concurrently, The RP Group will advocate for appropriate job classifications, opportunities for advancement, adequate staffing ratios, and recognition of the expertise IRPE staff bring to our institutions. Lastly, The RP Group will seek to protect the autonomy of IRPE professionals in their work such that they are able to conduct research and faithfully report outcomes without undue influence.



Promoting Innovation and Change

The RP Group will encourage change and innovation based on evaluations of system-level reforms and highly impactful local practices, providing the essential evidence to refine and scale equitable policies. The RP Group will work to promote the adoption of new practices by translating complex research into practical tools for educators and policymakers alike.

