

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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DATE: September 12, 2016

**AA16-21
VIA E-MAIL**

TO: Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Information Security Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Academic Senate for California Community Colleges
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

FROM: Debra Connick
Vice Chancellor, Technology, Research and Information Systems
Pamela D. Walker
Vice Chancellor, Educational Services

SUBJECT: Delay in Common Assessment Initiative Timeline

We want to inform you about a delay in the Common Assessment Initiative (CAI) implementation timeline.

Development of the new assessment tool, CCCAssess, will take longer than anticipated. Based on a recent analysis, there are a number of test items within the assessment that need additional review with specific populations before they can be utilized for placement.

The CAI project team, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Assessment Workgroup, and the Academic Senate agree that an additional validation phase is in the best interest of our colleges and our students. The decision by the Chancellor's Office to delay the rollout was not made lightly and came after extended consideration and dedication to ensuring that the CCCAssess tests are of the highest quality possible.

As a result, a scheduled roll-out of the assessment for about 40 pilot colleges in October is going to be delayed. We are currently revising the project timeline and will continue to be in close contact with impacted colleges.

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While CCCAssess undergoes an additional validation phase, the CAI team will work closely with affected colleges to identify and support alternative plans for assessment. Additional resources will be available to those colleges currently using ACT Compass, including a Compass User Group that will be established to share resources and best practices.

We understand the challenges that this delay may create for certain colleges, and we are committed to doing whatever we can to support colleges impacted by the delay during this transition. Ultimately, we believe a quality assessment will result in significant savings of time and money for our colleges and students.

In the days ahead, CAI will provide a revised project timeline, and schedule informational webinars as part of our commitment to assist you and your colleges. Updated information will be available at CCCAssess.org.

For more information, please feel free to contact Jennifer Coleman, Statewide Program Director for CAI at jcoleman@ccctechcenter.org or Pamela Walker, Vice Chancellor, Educational Services at the Chancellor's Office at pwalker@ccccco.edu or Debra Connick, Vice Chancellor, Technology, Research and Information Systems at the Chancellor's Office at dconnick@ccccco.edu.