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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
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1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

April 16, 2021

**MICHAEL DRAKE, PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Adjustment to the Statewide Eligibility Index**

Dear President Drake,

At its April 14, 2021 meeting, the Assembly of the Academic Senate approved BOARS' recommendation to implement a new model and minimum thresholds for the Statewide Eligibility Index, which currently identifies the top 9% of California high school graduates eligible for UC based on an index involving both high school GPA (HSGPA) and standardized test scores. Changes to the index are needed to conform with the UC Regents decision in May of 2020 to phase out standardized testing in admissions decisions at the University of California.

BOARS considered several models, and decided on one that uses HSGPA and the number of A-G courses completed in 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades and expected in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The new model is expected to help identify competitive students. The change to the index does not affect the Eligibility in the Local Context pathway, which extends eligibility to the top 9% of high school graduates in each high school based on GPA.

The Assembly approved the use of the new index beginning with applications received in fall 2021 for enrollment in fall 2022. BOARS' letter explaining the rationale for the change is enclosed. We respectfully ask that you inform the Regents of the change to the admissions index.

BOARS and the Academic Senate will be studying campus application, admission, and enrollment results in the coming years to obtain a deeper understanding of how changes to standardized testing policy are affecting access, equity, and inclusion. We look forward to working with you and the Regents on admissions policies and initiatives that continue to support access for a well-prepared and diverse cohort of students while maintaining the excellent quality of the University going forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Gauvain".

Mary Gauvain, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: Provost Brown  
Vice President and Provost Gullatt  
Executive Director Yoon-Wu  
BOARS  
Academic Council  
Chief of Staff Kao  
Senate Directors  
Senate Director Baxter

Encl.



**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)**

**Eddie Comeaux, Chair**

[eddie.comeaux@ucr.edu](mailto:eddie.comeaux@ucr.edu)

Assembly of the Academic Senate

1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Oakland, CA 94607-5200

February 18, 2021

**MARY GAUVAIN, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: Statewide Eligibility Index Adjustment**

Dear Mary,

The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) continues to grapple with the changing assessment landscape available for California high school graduates seeking admission to the University of California. Prior to admission/selection decisions, there are eligibility requirements, which include completion of the A-G course sequence and, until recently, standardized test scores. These data were used in conjunction to identify the minimum level of academic achievement needed to be eligible for a guarantee of admission under the statewide context. BOARS has been working with the Office of the President to identify new minimum thresholds for this Statewide Eligibility Index, and we thank our colleagues in the offices of Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) and Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs (GUEA).

Senate Regulation 466<sup>1</sup> states that BOARS, with the concurrence of the Academic Council and the Academic Assembly, is responsible for adjusting the index when appropriate.

**To be clear, this recalibration will not change the “9x9” policy or alter the target of 9% of public high school graduates who should receive a statewide guarantee. It will only change how those 9% are identified.**

After careful consideration of multiple data points (note enclosure), BOARS has decided that the new Statewide Eligibility Index shall be based on High School GPA + Number of A-G courses completed in grades 9-11 and expected in grade 12. BOARS considered equity issues and the potential impact on student success, among other contextual factors, and voted unanimously to support this option. We recommend that this change be implemented for students applying for enrollment as freshmen in fall 2022.

Because further changes to the Index are likely given the ever-changing admission landscape, refined data will be needed to support public communications.

Thank you for your support,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/rpart2.html#r466>

Sincerely,

Eddie Comeaux  
BOARS Chair

Encl.

cc: Members of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)  
Executive Director Baxter  
IRAP Director Chang  
GUEA Executive Director Yoon-Wu  
GUEA Director Lin

## Statewide Admissions Index at UC

This report provides a brief overview of the current statewide admissions index that has been used since 2015 and the index that was approved by BOARS in June 2020. It also proposes three sets of statewide admissions indices.

1. HSGPA (high school weighted, capped GPAs) and number of A-G semester courses.
2. HSGPA (high school weighted, capped GPAs) and number of honors semester courses.
3. HSGPA (high school weighted, capped GPAs), number of A-G semester courses, and number of honors courses

The report then presents the simulated results based on CA public high school applicants in Fall 2019.

### A brief overview of the statewide admissions index

#### Current Index

The current index (table on the right) was originally created in 2009 after SAT Subject tests were eliminated as an admission requirement. It was created based on high school A-G course GPAs and SAT Reasoning (Critical Reading, Math, and Writing) or ACT Composite and Writing scores. The index was used for determining the top 9% of California public high school graduates for UC statewide eligibility of applicants beginning in 2012. It was revised in 2015 when more than 9% of California high school graduates were determined as eligible students for UC admissions. About 11% of California public high school graduates in 2019 were eligible for UC admissions under this index.

#### The index approved by BOARS in June 2020

Due to elimination of the SAT Essay and the ACT ELA score requirement, the index that has been used for many years to determine the top 9% of public high school graduates was revised based on high school A-G course GPAs and SAT Math and EBRW (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing) or ACT Composite scores. The index was created based on an assumption that UC would admit the same number of eligible students for UC admissions from California public high schools as the number of eligible students under the *Current Index* described above. In other words, under this index approved by

HSGPA	Minimum UC Score	
	Current Index	Approved Index
3.00 - <3.05	277	183
3.05 - <3.10	275	181
3.10 - <3.15	273	181
3.15 - <3.20	270	180
3.20 - <3.25	268	180
3.25 - <3.30	266	179
3.30 - <3.35	263	179
3.35 - <3.40	260	178
3.40 - <3.45	257	178
3.45 - <3.50	254	177
3.50 - <3.55	251	176
3.55 - <3.60	248	174
3.60 - <3.65	245	172
3.65 - <3.70	242	170
3.70 - <3.75	238	168
3.75 - <3.80	235	166
3.80 - <3.85	231	164
3.85 - <3.90	227	161
3.90 - <3.95	224	159
3.95 - <4.00	220	156
4.00 - <4.05	216	153
4.05 - <4.10	212	150
4.10 - <4.15	207	147
4.15 - <4.20	203	143
4.20 - <4.25	198	140
4.25 - <4.30	194	135
4.30 - <4.35	189	132
4.35 or above	184	128

BOARS in June 2020, UC continues to admit about 12% of California high school graduates who meet the statewide index, rather than 9% regulated under the current 9x9 admissions eligibility structure.

Newly proposed indices based on high school GPAs, number of A-G courses, and number of honors courses

BOARS requested that we examine several options for the statewide admissions index without test scores. The first option includes high school GPA and number of A-G courses. The second option includes high school GPA and number of honors courses. The third option includes high school GPA, number of A-G courses and number of honors courses. For all three options, we examined the possible statewide index pool based on two assumptions: 1) UC will select the top 9% of public high school graduates regulated under the current 9x9 admissions eligibility structure, and 2) UC will continue to admit about 11% of California high school graduates through the statewide index as UC did for the fall 2019 cycle.

**Methodology**

Step 1

Three logistic regression models<sup>1</sup> were built based on the fall 2018 entering cohort. The population includes freshman enrollees from California public schools who met minimum course requirements for UC admissions as described in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Description of Logistic Regression Models

Variable	Variable Type	Model I	Model II	Model II	Description
High school GPA	Independent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Weighted, capped GPA 3.00 or above
# of A-G courses including courses complete in Grades 9 through 11, and also planned to take in Grade 12	Independent	Yes		Yes	At least 30 semester courses
# of honors courses	Independent		Yes	Yes	
First year completion at UC	Dependent	Yes	Yes	Yes	UC first year GPA 2.00 or above

<sup>1</sup> Model I:  $FYR\_Completion = -7.5963 + 2.3146*HSGPA + 0.0278*AG\_Courses$

Model II:  $FYR\_Completion = -6.1290 + 2.1962*HSGPA + 0.0397*Honors$

Model III:  $FYR\_Completion = -7.0830 + 2.1887*HSGPA + 0.0222*AG\_Courses + 0.0306*Honors$

Step 2

1. Three models were applied to 2019 freshman applicants who met the minimum requirements for UC admissions.

2. The probability that an applicant could have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or above by the end of the first year at UC if admitted and enrolled was calculated using three models, respectively.

Table 2. Data Description of Three Models

	#	Probability cutoff	GPA Range	# A-G Course Range	# Honors Course Range
<b>CA public HS graduates in 2019</b>					
	429,790				
<b>Model I (HSGPA + # A-G courses)</b>					
Top 9%	38,588	95.2%	3.55-5.00	31.5-116	
Top 11%	47,619	93.9%	3.27-5.00	30-116	
<b>Model II (HSGPA + # Honors courses)</b>					
Top 9%	38,696	95.1%	3.62-5.00		2-36
Top 11%	47,591	93.8%	3.57-5.00		1-36
<b>Model III (HSGPA + # A-G courses + # Honors courses)</b>					
Top 9%	38,681	95.1%	3.62-5.00	31-116	0-36
Top 11%	47,674	93.9%	3.54-5.00	30-116	0-36

3. Applicants were ranked by probability calculated above.

4. Applicants who were ranked among the top 9% or 11% were selected as those who meet the statewide index.

5. The probability cutoff, the GPA ranges, the range of number of A-G courses, and the range of Honors courses presented in the table on the right used to select the top 9% or 11% of applicants will be used to create a statewide index in the next step (simulations).

Simulated Results Based on 2019 Applicants

Figures 1-2 below examine the makeup of the simulated statewide admission pool from the fall 2019 applicants by race/ethnicity and first generation status with respect to the types of formerly eligible students who remain under the current index and three proposed indices.

- The three models generate a very similar statewide admission pool in terms of race/ethnicity (see Figure 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4) and first generation status (see Figures 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4).
- Under the new “Index (9%)” models, the demographic makeup of eligible students would change quite a bit. The share of eligible students from underrepresented groups (URG) increases by about five percentage points, from about 25 percent under the “Current Index” (see Figure 1.1) to over 30 percent (Figure 1.2). The share of first generation college students

also increases by four percentage points, from 30.7 percent under the “Current Index” (see Figure 2.1) to 34.8 percent (see Figure 2.2)

- If UC would maintain the same eligibility rate (11%) through the statewide index, even more URG and first generation students would meet the statewide index (“Index (11%)” in Figures 1.2-1.4 and 2.2-2.4).
- With actual ELC students, the new guaranteed admission pool (“Index (9%)/ELC” and “Index (11%)/ELC” in the figures below) is more diverse as well. The proportion of URG and first generation applicants increases by about 3-4 percentage points.

Figure 1.1 Share of CA public high school graduates (HSG), UC applicants (App), current statewide index applicants, and guaranteed admits by race/ethnicity

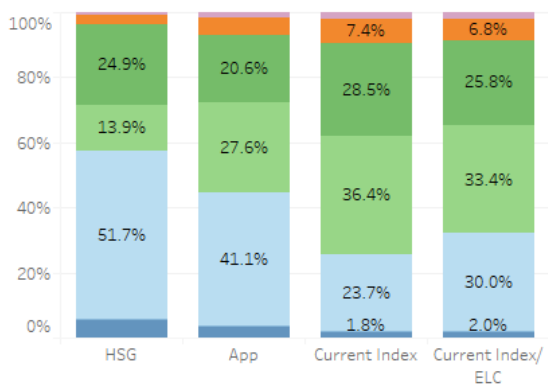


Figure 1.2 Model I: share of statewide eligible students based on HSGPA and # of A-G courses, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by race/ethnicity

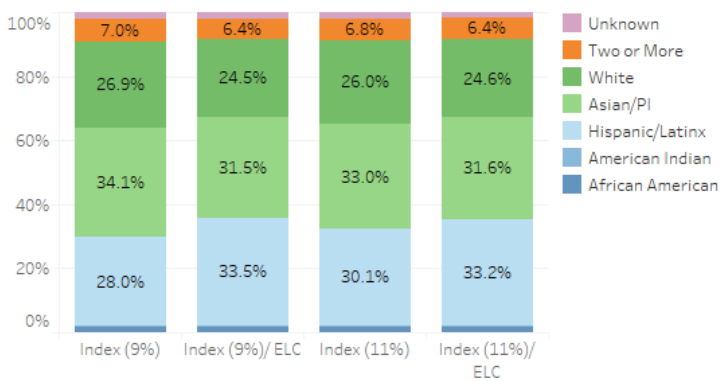


Figure 1.3 Model II: share of statewide eligible students based on high school GPA and # of honors courses, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by race/ethnicity

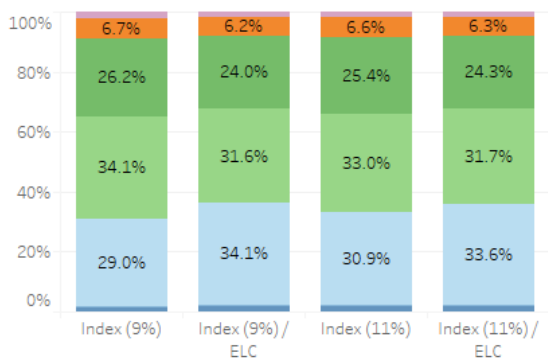


Figure 1.4 Model III: share of statewide eligible students based on HSGPA, # of A-G courses and # of honors courses, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by race/ethnicity

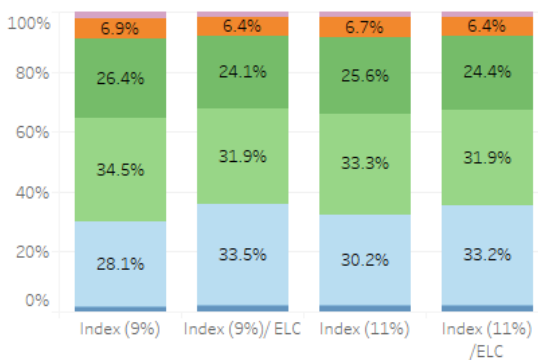




Figure 2.1 Share of CA public high school graduates (HSG), UC applicants (App), current statewide index applicants, and guaranteed admits by first generation status

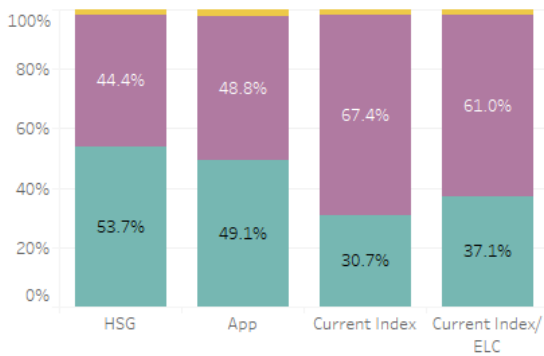


Figure 2.2 Model I: share of statewide eligible students based on HSGPA and # of A-G courses, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by first generation status

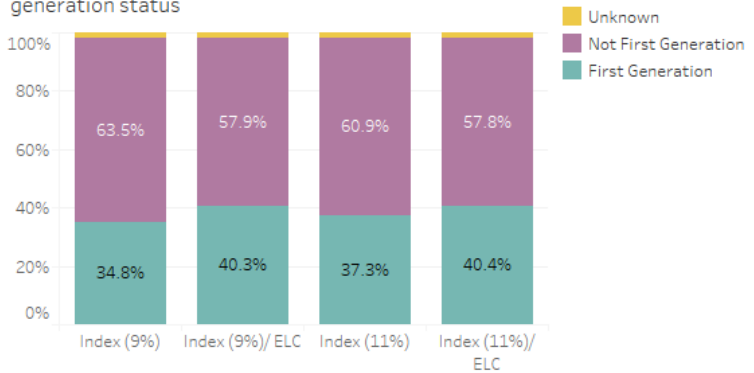


Figure 2.3 Model II: share of statewide eligible students based on HSGPA and # of honors courses, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by first generation status

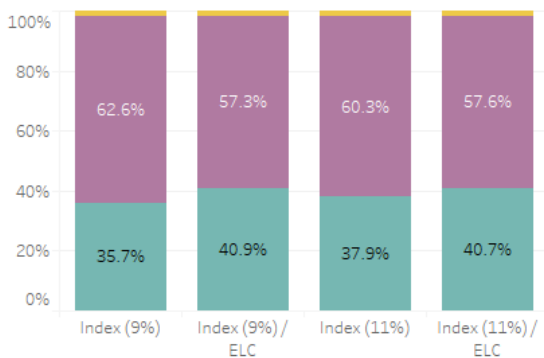
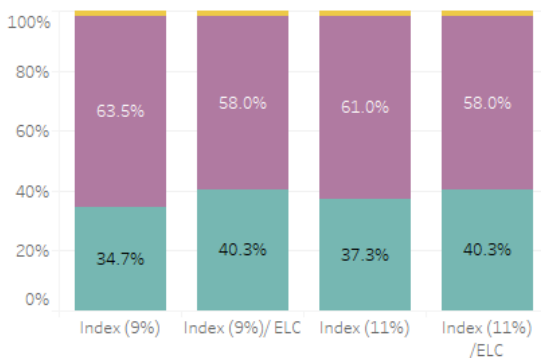


Figure 2.4 Model III: share of statewide eligible students based on HSGPA, # of A-G courses and # of honors courses, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by first generation status



## New Index and Simulated Results

BOARS approved Model I at the January meeting, which is based on high school weighted, capped GPA and number of A-G courses students completed in Grades 9 to 11 and planned to take in Grade 12. A new statewide index was created based on this model (Table 3).

- Under the new “Index (9%)” models, the demographic makeup of eligible students would change quite bit. The share of eligible URG students increases by about four percentage points, from about 26 percent under the “Current Index” (see Figure 3.1) to over 30 percent (Figure 3.2). The share of first generation college students also increases by four percentage

points, from 30.7 percent under the “Current Index” (see Figure 4.1) to 34.7 percent (see Figure 4.2)

- With actual ELC students, the new guaranteed admission pool (“Index+ELC” in Figures 3.2 and 4.2) is more diverse as well. The proportion of URG and first generation applicants increases by about four percentage points.
- Tables 4.1 and 4.2 show eligibility status change of students by race/ethnicity and first generation status based on the current and new statewide indices. Proportionally, a lot more Asian (38.4 percent) and White (29.1 percent) students who were eligible under the current statewide index become ineligible under the new index, compared to 23 percent of URG students. Among those who were not eligible under the current index, but become eligible under the new index, about 63 percent are URG students, compared to 14 percent for Asian students and 8.9 percent for White students. By first generation status (Table 4.2), proportionally, fewer first generation students (29 percent) who were eligible under the current index are not able to meet the new index, while among those who were not eligible under the current index, but become eligible under the new index, 78 percent are first generation students. It is important to note that under the current index, 11 percent of CA public high school graduates are eligible for UC guaranteed admission, but the simulations were done based on the assumption that UC will only determine the top 9 percent of CA public school graduates. If we would use a revised version of the new index to select the top 11 percent of CA public school graduate, the pool would be even more diverse as showed in Figure 1.2 (Index (11%) and Index (11%)/ELC).
- Tables 5.1 and 5.2 present average GPA and number of A-G courses by race/ethnicity and first generation status for students whose eligibility status changed under the current and new indices. URG and first generation students who were not eligible under the current index, but become eligible under the new index have a slightly higher high school GPA when compared to the GPA of Asian, White and first generation students, but have a slightly lower number of A-G courses.

Table 3. New Index

GPA	# of A-G Courses
3.60-3.64	76
3.65-3.69	74
3.70-3.74	70
3.75-3.79	66
3.80-3.84	63
3.85-3.89	58
3.90-3.94	54
3.95-3.99	50
4.00-4.04	46
4.05-4.09	41
4.10-4.14	37
4.15-4.19	34
4.20-4.24	32
4.25 or above	30

Figure 3.1 Share of CA public high school graduates (HSG), UC applicants (App), current statewide index applicants, and guaranteed admits by race/ethnicity

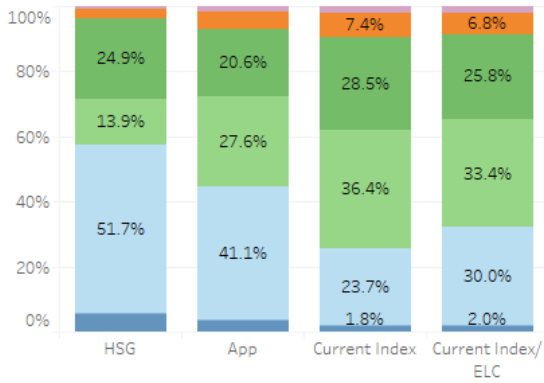


Figure 3.2 Share of statewide eligible students based on the new statewide index, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by race/ethnicity

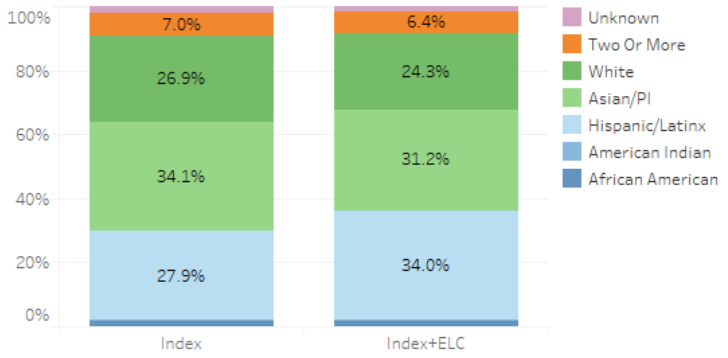


Figure 4.1 Share of CA public high school graduates (HSG), UC applicants (App), current statewide index applicants, and guaranteed admits by first generation status

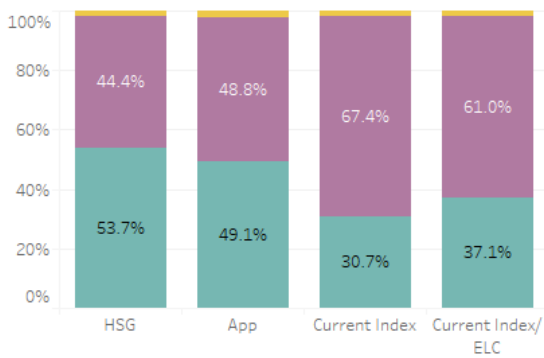


Figure 4.2 Share of statewide eligible students based on the new statewide index, and guaranteed admits (index + actual ELC students) by first generation status

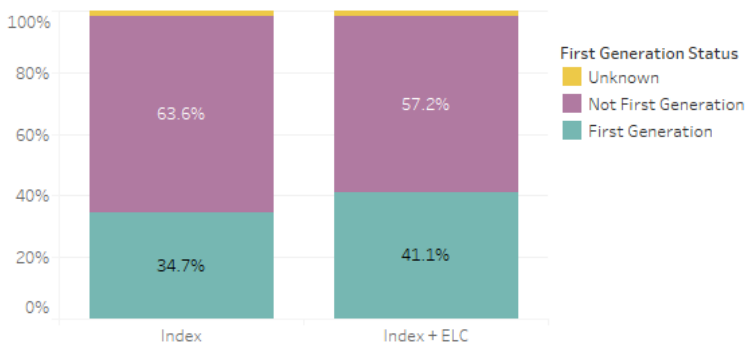


Table 4.1. Eligibility status change of students by race/ethnicity between the current and new statewide indices

Race/Ethnicity	No longer index-eligible	No longer index/ELC eligible	Newly index-eligible	Newly index/ELC eligible
African American	262	186	111	42
American Indian	18	15	5	3
Asian/PI	5,170	4,509	393	154
Hispanic/Latinx	2,794	1,715	1,912	556
White	3,921	3,448	248	153
Two or More	1,031	891	86	32
Unknown	276	252	22	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,472</b>	<b>11,016</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>950</b>
African American	1.9%	1.7%	4.0%	4.4%
American Indian	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
Asian/PI	38.4%	40.9%	14.2%	16.2%
Hispanic/Latinx	20.7%	15.6%	68.9%	58.5%
White	29.1%	31.3%	8.9%	16.1%
Two or More	7.7%	8.1%	3.1%	3.4%
Unknown	2.0%	2.3%	0.8%	1.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 4.2. Eligibility status change of students by first generation college status between the current and new statewide indices

First Generation College Status	No longer index-eligible	No longer index/ELC eligible	Newly index-eligible	Newly index/ELC eligible
First Generation	3,913	2,553	2,169	642
Not First Generation	9,266	8,201	560	288
Unknown	293	262	48	20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,472</b>	<b>11,016</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>950</b>
First Generation	29.0%	23.2%	78.1%	67.6%
Not First Generation	68.8%	74.4%	20.2%	30.3%
Unknown	2.2%	2.4%	1.7%	2.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 5.1. Average GPA of students whose eligibility status changed based on the current and new statewide indices

Race/Ethnicity	No longer index-eligible	No longer index/ELC eligible	Newly index-eligible	Newly index/ELC eligible
African American	3.85	3.81	4.06	4.04
American Indian	3.84	3.82	4.03	4.01
Asian/PI	3.80	3.78	4.05	4.02
Hispanic/Latinx	3.87	3.83	4.07	4.04
White	3.82	3.80	4.05	4.03
Two or More	3.81	3.79	4.04	4.02
Unknown	3.80	3.78	4.05	4.05
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>4.06</b>	<b>4.04</b>
<b>First Generation Colle..</b>				
First Generation	3.86	3.82	4.07	4.04
Not First Generation	3.80	3.79	4.04	4.03
Unknown	3.79	3.77	4.06	4.05
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>4.06</b>	<b>4.04</b>

Table 5.2. Average A-G courses of students whose eligibility status changed based on the current and new statewide indices

Race/Ethnicity	No longer index-eligible	No longer index/ELC eligible	Newly index-eligible	Newly index/ELC eligible
African American	46.4	46.8	49.9	51.5
American Indian	46.2	46.0	50.0	54.0
Asian/PI	47.9	48.1	50.4	51.8
Hispanic/Latinx	45.8	46.6	48.8	50.2
White	46.9	47.2	51.2	52.7
Two or More	47.4	47.6	51.6	52.7
Unknown	48.0	48.4	50.0	52.7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>51.0</b>
<b>First Generation Colle..</b>				
First Generation	45.9	46.7	48.8	50.2
Not First Generation	47.6	47.8	51.6	52.9
Unknown	47.0	47.1	49.4	50.1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>51.0</b>