

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL): An Overview

Empowering Students, Advancing Equity

What is Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)?

- **College credit for validated skills and knowledge gained outside the classroom.**
- **Examples:**
 - Military training
 - Industry certifications
 - Work-based learning
 - Volunteer activities (e.g., Peace Corps)

Why CPL Matters

- **Student Impact:**
 - Students with CPL are 2x more likely to graduate.
 - Reduces time to degree by 6–10 months.
 - Increases completion rates and economic mobility.
- **Equity Focus:**
 - Targets underserved groups, including working adults and people of color.

CPL in California: Vision for Success

- **Policy Milestone:**
 - Title 5, Section 55050 revision in 2019 to streamline CPL processes.
- **Alignment with Goals:**
 - **Equity:** Close achievement gaps.
 - **Access:** Serve 6.8M adults with high school diplomas but no degrees.
 - **Funding:** Improve outcomes under the Student Centered Funding Formula.

Key Principles for CPL Implementation

- **Equity:**
 - Ensure accessible and consistent processes.
- **Integrity:**
 - Maintain rigor in assessing prior learning.
- **Transparency:**
 - Clear guidance for students and stakeholders.
- **Scalability:**
 - Policies that grow with institutional needs.

A large red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the text 'The Path Forward'. The bubble has a tail pointing downwards and to the right. The background of the slide features several curved, concentric lines in shades of gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion or a path.

The Path Forward

- **Call to Action:**
 - Collaborate across stakeholders (faculty, counselors, administrators).
 - Leverage resources like the CPL Toolkit.
- **Integrate CPL into Guided Pathways and Student Success initiatives.**
- **Vision:**
 - Tailored learning paths to help Californians upskill for a competitive workforce.