



Rancho Santiago Community College District The Relationship between Enrollment Patterns and Student Centered Funding Formula Transfer to Four-Year University

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As the California Community College System continues to strive to improve transfer pathways to four-year universities, the District Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness Department examined how recent enrollment trends relate to transfer volumes by year. Importantly, comparisons were made between transfer volumes derived for internal reporting purposes versus transfer volumes derived for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) allocations. The key difference underlying the two methods lies in the calculation of units completed and the timeframe in which it must have been completed. For internal reporting purposes, students were counted as transfers when they completed 12 or more units at Santa Ana College (SAC) and/or at Santiago Canyon College (SCC) any time prior to transferring to a four-year university. However, for SCFF allocations, students must have completed 12 units at SAC and/or SCC the year prior to transferring.

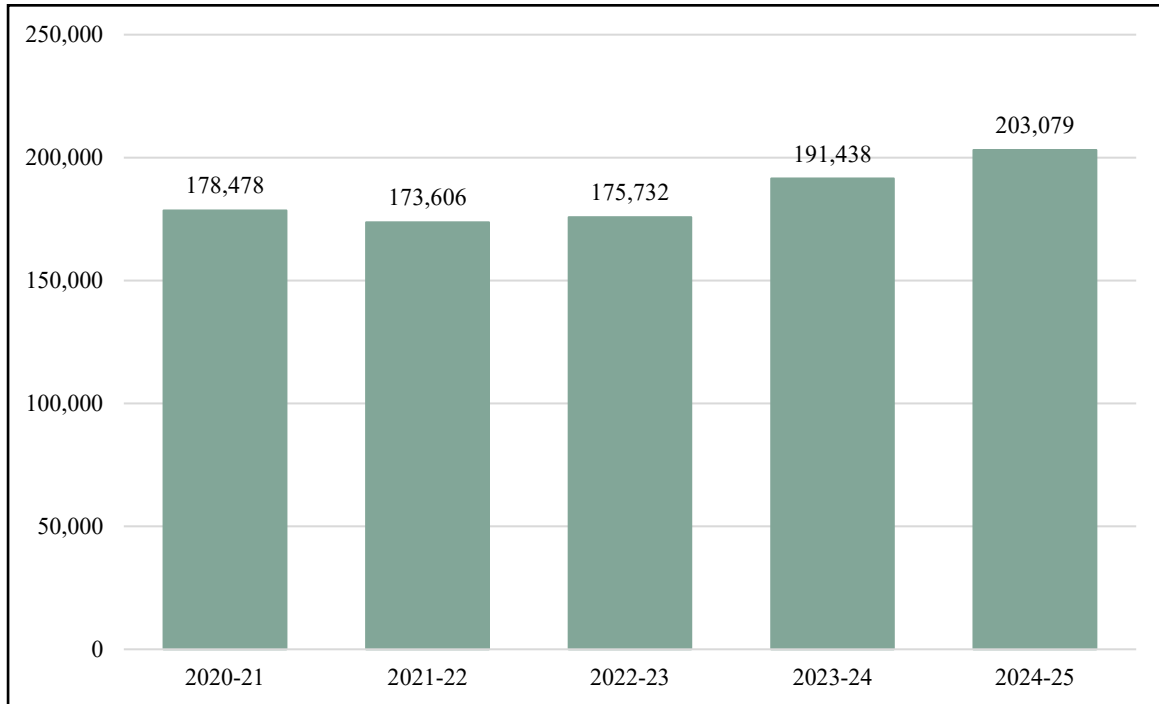
Given these differences in how transfer volume is counted, this analysis explored whether growth in enrollment corresponded with growth in transfer volumes according to each of the two methods. Findings from this study are intended to support district and college administrators in strategic decision-making to improve student transfers and maximize progress on this key institutional success metric.

Key Findings include:

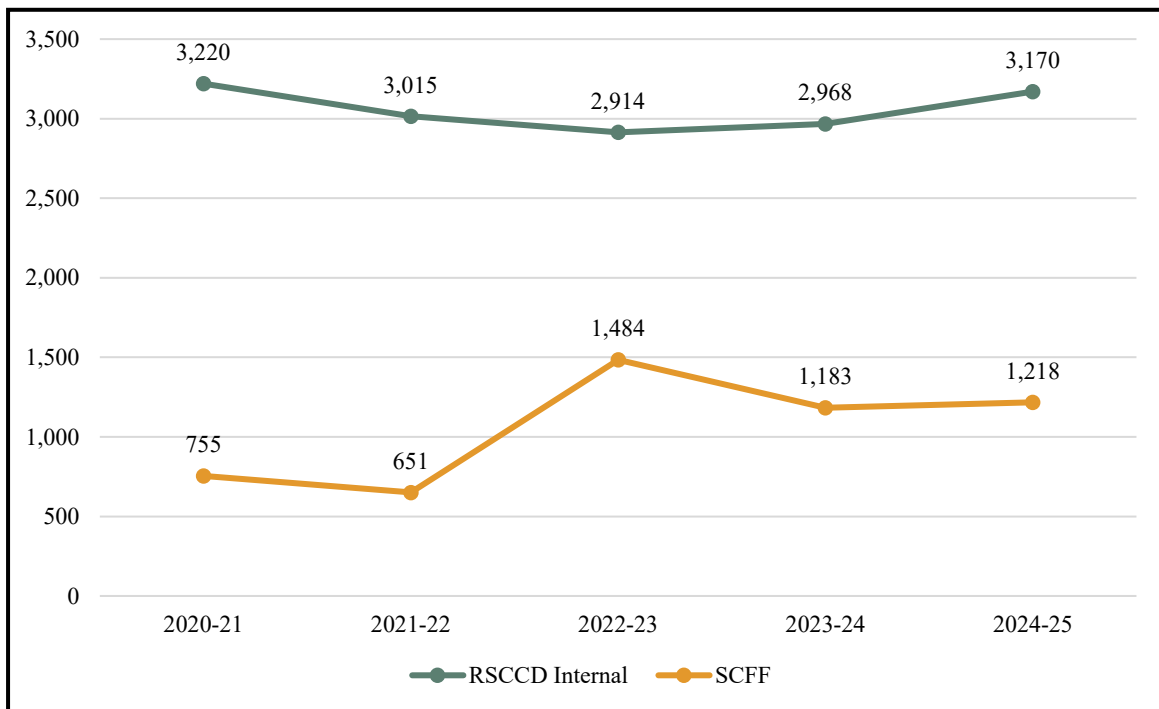
- Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College combined credit enrollment increased over the past four academic years, with the strongest growth in 2023–24 (+8.9%) and 2024–25 (+6.1%).
- Despite sustained growth in credit enrollment, transfer volume trends differed between internal methods and SCFF methods.
 - Transfer volumes based on internal RSCCD method resulted in a pattern somewhat similar to that of enrollment, with a slight dip in the first two years (3,220 to 3,015; -6.4%) and a slight increase in the final two years of the analysis (2,968 to 3,170; +6.8%).
 - Contrary to the dip and rise in transfer volumes according to internal methods, SCFF methods showed a very large increase between 2021-22 to 2022-23 (more than doubling from 651 to 1,484; +128.0%) followed by a relatively large decrease in 2023-24 (1,484 to 1,183; -20.3%).
- In addition to the differences in transfer volume trends, the overall transfer volume across the five-year period was significantly lower counts for SCFF than internal reporting due to SCFF's criteria for having completed 12 units during the year prior to transferring.

Detailed data can be found on the next page.

Rancho Santiago Community College District Credit Enrollment by Year



Rancho Santiago Community College District Transfer Student Counts by Method and Year



Data Sources: RSCCD Snowflake Data Lakehouse, California Community College System Chancellor's Office SCFF MIS Data, and National Student Clearinghouse.