



## Financial Health Index & Equity Indicators Dashboard Use Case

A California Community College President Looks to Better Support Hispanic Students

**MAPS**  
charting the shifting landscape  
of the future of higher education

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## **How Well is Your College or University Performing Financially and Addressing Student Equity?**

In the wake of student demographic changes and their accompanying and increasing needs, higher education leaders will need to take a data-backed approach to decisions affecting students, especially historically underserved students. The MAPS Project gives higher education leaders actionable insights and tools to navigate challenges, empowering them to create a more equitable future for historically marginalized students.

The Financial Health Indicators Index is the first system-wide data tool that allows governing boards, presidents, and senior leadership teams to evaluate how their institution's financial health directly impacts student experience and outcomes from an equity lens. Higher education leaders will be able to use the index to compare their institutions to others to gain additional layers of insight. Governing boards will also be able to get a fuller picture of health in the context of peer institutions and may get more insights by also working with university leadership.

The Equity Indicators contextualize racial and socioeconomic data to help leaders find ways to better serve historically marginalized students. Together, they provide a current state picture to support post secondary stakeholders in recognizing opportunities to better serve historically marginalized students.

## **Use Cases for the Financial Health Indicators Index and Equity Indicators**

The goal of the use cases is to show higher education leaders how to use the Financial Health Indicators Index and Equity Indicators to gain insights into how their institution is performing in both areas.

These use cases provide fictional examples of higher education leaders, such as college presidents and governing board members, using the tools to gain insights into their institutions' financial performance with an equity lens.



## Use Case: A California Community College President Looks to Better Support Hispanic Students

### THE CHALLENGE

Michelle is the president of a community college, which is part of a larger district, in California. She works closely with district leadership and the gov to ensure the college is best serving the students' needs in its community. The county is predominantly Hispanic and is becoming more so.

### KEY FINDINGS: MAPS FINANCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS INDEX (FHII)

- **College Overview:**
  - Full Time Enrollment Undergrad: 2,417
  - Pell Recipients: 27% are Pell recipients
  - Graduate Rate: 20%
  - Retention Rate: 58%
- **FHII percentile rank:** Michelle sees her district falls in the **53rd percentile within public, 2-year institutions of higher education.**
- **Comparing schools:** Michelle then compares her community college to others in similar districts in California and sees that her college has the highest FHII score. While her school leads in overall score, the school ranked toward the bottom in:
  - Instruction expenses as a percentage of total expenses, and
  - Retention rates.
- **Examining student spending:** She then takes a closer look at the numbers related to student spending, a major indicator of the overall score. She notices that her college ranks well across all student spending metrics.

### KEY FINDINGS: MAPS EQUITY INDICATORS

For greater context, she looks at the MAPS Equity Indicators that contextualizes racial and socioeconomic data.

- **Majority Race of Instructors:** 55% White
- **Demographic Information:**
  - Race of Undergraduate Students:
    - White: 13%
    - Hispanic: 63%
    - Black: 10%
    - Asian: 9%
    - AIAN: 1%
    - Additional Races: 4%



- Graduation Rates for Specific Groups Compared to the Institution's Overall Graduation Rate:
  - White: 44%
  - Hispanic: 17%
  - Black: 14%
  - Asian: 40%
  - Additional Races: 39%

## INSIGHTS

Based on the data, Michelle wonders what can be done to retain students and help them to complete their credentials and degrees, especially Hispanic students, who despite comprising **63% of the student population** at her college, have a **17% graduation rate**.

She knows this is especially important because the county the community college serves became predominantly Hispanic 15 years ago, and the Hispanic population has been growing steadily since.

## SOLUTIONS

Michelle explores [MAPS Resources](#) to find examples and information about how colleges and universities can better support Hispanic students in community colleges.