The California Department of Education (CDE) selects Absolute Priority 2 for the California Open Education Project (CalOpEd). Grant funds will support the development of a course-access and learning management system (LMS) called the Statewide Learning and Teaching Equity (SLATE) platform. The CDE will develop and disseminate academic content to the public to ensure access to college and career preparatory courses and Universal Design for Learning distance learning (DL) curriculum for educators, parents, and all sixth through twelfth (6–12) grade students in California. CalOpEd will provide additional professional learning (PL) resources to support remote and rural regions that have historically lacked funding and/or capacity to access quality digital coursework and content to supplement or replace site-based instruction.

The three primary project objectives are to (1) provide a common, enterprise-level LMS and collaboration platform so parents, teachers, and students have access to quality digital learning resources and enhanced instructional materials, (2) organize a statewide stakeholder group consisting of parents, community leaders, industry partners, and education leaders to identify critical needs and provide ongoing monitoring and input, and (3) convene regional educator teams to collaboratively write, curate, and develop a repository of courses, curriculum, and professional learning (PL) modules. The CDE will administer this project to support innovation in DL and blended learning (BL) education. To aid educators, the CDE will extend SLATE to include a professional learning community (PLC) platform and provide PL resources to guide teachers in DL and BL instructional strategies to accommodate shifting school-delivery formats and family needs. Key partners include the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), and the California Rural Education Network (CREN).