

TOPIC: 2008 FINANCIAL AID POLICY ON ACCESS AND RETENTION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

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I. SUMMARY

At the December 8, 2010 Commission meeting, several Commissioners inquired about the impact (if any) of the new financial aid policy implemented in 2008 on access and retention rates by race/ethnicity. This numerical presentation addresses these inquiries. No action is necessary by the Commission.

II. BACKGROUND AND STAFF ANALYSIS

In 2008, the Department implemented the Colorado College Responsibility Program (CCRG), which replaced the Colorado Student Grant program as the state's primary need-based financial aid program. This new program seeks to incentivize institutions that have higher populations of low income students and to make state-funded aid predictable. This change was made to ensure that Level 1 students (the neediest students) would receive a minimum grant regardless of their institution of attendance.

The first chart on the following page shows the numbers of recipients of the Colorado Student Grant in 2005, 2006, 2007 and a three-year average, contrasted with the new policy in 2008 (the only year for which we have complete data to generate retention numbers). Compared to the three-year average under the old policy, the total number of recipients nearly doubled under the new policy.

The second and third chart show the number and percentage of grant recipients who were retained the following year, respectively. Compared to the three-year average, both a higher number and a higher percentage of recipients were retained under the new policy. This held true across race/ethnic categories.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.

Colorado Student Grant Recipients, Old versus New Policy and Retention, Statewide

Total Number of Recipients

	OLD POLICY				NEW POLICY
	2005	2006	2007	3 Yr Average	2008
American Indian or Alaska Native	510	556	616	561	1,028
Asian or Pacific Islander	1,078	1,269	1,458	1,268	2,510
Black, Non Hispanic	1,973	2,567	2,821	2,454	4,941
Hispanic	4,694	4,877	6,138	5,236	10,502
Unknown	1,094	2,261	1,796	1,717	3,445
White, Non Hispanic	14,863	15,919	18,142	16,308	30,902
Grand Total	24,212	27,449	30,971	27,544	53,328

Total Number of Recipients who were RETAINED the following year

	OLD POLICY				NEW POLICY
	2005	2006	2007	3 Yr Average	2008
American Indian or Alaska Native	316	340	379	345	699
Asian or Pacific Islander	781	1,021	1,185	996	2,003
Black, Non Hispanic	1,224	1,531	1,719	1,491	3,075
Hispanic	3,166	3,275	4,178	3,540	7,210
Unknown	705	1,644	1,245	1,198	2,500
White, Non Hispanic	10,437	11,375	13,184	11,665	23,089
Grand Total	16,629	19,186	21,890	19,235	38,576

Percent RETAINED

	OLD POLICY				NEW POLICY
	2005	2006	2007	3 Yr Average	2008
American Indian or Alaska Native	62.0%	61.2%	61.5%	61.5%	68.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	72.4%	80.5%	81.3%	78.1%	79.8%
Black, Non Hispanic	62.0%	59.6%	60.9%	60.9%	62.2%
Hispanic	67.4%	67.2%	68.1%	67.6%	68.7%
Unknown	64.4%	72.7%	69.3%	68.8%	72.6%
White, Non Hispanic	70.2%	71.5%	72.7%	71.4%	74.7%
Grand Total	68.7%	69.9%	70.7%	69.8%	72.3%