

TOPIC: HOUSE BILL 10-1119 “SMART ACT” AND STRATEGIC PLAN

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I. SUMMARY

House Bill 10-1119, the “State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Government Act,” or “SMART Act,” introduced new requirements for all state departments and agencies to develop strategic plans for the budget process beginning FY 2012-13 and beyond. These plans must be included as part of each department’s budget submission and should demonstrate linkages between annual program funding and performance goals or outcomes. The Department of Higher Education prepared and submitted such a plan to the Colorado General Assembly on November 29, 2011.

II. BACKGROUND

In recent weeks the Department of Higher Education prepared a response for the fulfillment of HB 10-1119 (attached). This plan employed existing statewide performance objectives found in the state’s performance contracts and financial accountability plans. In addition, it provides an overview of the history of planning and performance measurement for Colorado higher education and describes the master planning process underway as set out in Senate Bill 11-052.

The attached plan attempts to fulfill the needs of the SMART Act. Specifically the plan provides:

1. The history, background and context of higher education planning and performance measurement, especially since the implementation of SB 04-189;
2. Several high level leading indicators based on existing public data on retention, graduation, minority and low income enrollment as well as the amount of institutional financial aid over the same time period;
3. Institution-level indicators on retention, graduation, minority and low income enrollment, and a summary of institution plans to provide increased institutional financial aid under SB 10-003; and,
4. An explanation of the process and progress of the department, Commission and institutions in working toward improved performance measures and accountability as envisioned by SB 11-052.

The content in the DHE's response to the General Assembly reflects the fact that higher education is in a unique position with respect to planning and performance. It also demonstrates that rich legislative history connected to statewide strategic planning.

We are hopeful the plan will meet legislative needs and serve as a helpful overview of Colorado's recent history in higher education planning and accountability. In addition we believe it will provide a useful guide to assist CCHE and institutional leadership as we move forward on the improved performance process now getting underway.

III. RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation. An information item only.

IV. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

“On or before September 1, 2012, the commission shall develop and submit to the governor and the general assembly a new master plan for Colorado postsecondary education. The commission shall collaborate with the governing boards and chief executive officers of the state institutions of higher education in developing the master plan. In addition, the commission shall take into account the final report of the higher education strategic planning steering committee appointed by the governor. In drafting the master plan, addressing the issues specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (1.5), and establishing the goals as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection (1.5) for the state system of higher education” — *Section 23-1-108 (1.5), C.R.S. (2011)*