

TOPIC: POLICY REVISIONS RECOMMENDED BY CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT ADVISORY BOARD

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I. SUMMARY

C.R.S. 22-35-107 authorizes the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board (CEAB) to make necessary recommendations to the Commission concerning the improvement or updating of state policies relating to concurrent enrollment programs. The CEAB has based the following recommended changes to policy on HB09-1319 (the concurrent enrollment act), feedback from several public meetings, and considerations about the implementation year of the concurrent enrollment programs and ASCENT program.

The CEAB recommends changes to the Statewide Remedial Education policy, Admission Standards policy, Policy for Public Institutional Reporting College Opportunity Fund Student Credit Hour Stipend Enrollment (COF policy), and Policy for Reporting Full-Time Equivalent Student Enrollment (FTE policy).

II. BACKGROUND

HB09-1319, the Concurrent Enrollment Act, established concurrent enrollment programs and the ASCENT program. Concurrent enrollment programs allow a high school student to enroll in courses that will apply to high school graduation requirements and earn college credit. The ASCENT program allows a student to enroll in college courses during a fifth year of high school. The Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT programs replace the existing post secondary enrollment options, fast track, and fast college fast jobs programs no later than July 1, 2012.

To facilitate the implementation of and the administration of programs established by HB09-1319, the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board (CEAB) was established. Consisting of members appointed by the Governor, Executive Director of Department of Higher Education and Commissioner of the Department of Education, the CEAB has the responsibility to establish guidelines for administration of ASCENT, advise school districts and higher education institutions in preparing cooperative agreements, and make policy recommendation as necessary to the General Assembly, State Board of Education, and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

Beginning November 2009, the CEAB has held a series of public meetings concerning the implementation of the Concurrent Enrollment Act. At the December 16, 2010 meeting, the CEAB formally recommended changes to the Statewide Remedial Education policy, Admission Standards policy, COF policy, and FTE policy.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Revisions to Academic Affairs Policy Part E: Statewide Remedial Education Policy

C.R.S. 22-35-104 requires that all students participating in concurrent enrollment courses must satisfy the minimal prerequisites for the course prior to enrollment. The recommended change to section 3.04.02.04 allows for student that are enrolling in courses that otherwise would not require assessment to be exempt from any assessment. This change allows the institution of higher education flexibility to enroll students in courses without formal assessment in mathematics, reading, and writing if the course does not require assessment.

C.R.S. 23-18-202 allows for eligible students to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund stipend for courses taken pursuant to the concurrent enrollment programs act, including basic skills courses. C.R.S. 22-35-104 requires students be in the 12th grade to enroll in basic skills courses. The recommended change to section 4.02.03 allows for basic skills courses taken by 12th grade concurrently enrolled student to be included in the number claimed for state support.

Recommended changes to the Statewide Remedial Education Policy are included as Appendix A.

Revisions to Academic Affairs Policy Part F: Admissions Standards Policy

C.R.S. 22-35-108 establishes the Accelerating Students Through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) program. ASCENT allows for an eligible high school student to enroll in postsecondary coursework in the year following 12th grade. One requirement for eligibility is that a student must be admitted to a degree or certificate program at the institution of higher education. Changes throughout the admission standards policy concern the applicant status of the student prior to and post ASCENT participation.

Students applying to participate in the ASCENT program at a four year institution of higher education will be required to meet all eligibility requirements as defined in C.R.S. 22-35-108 as well as the Higher Education Admission Requirements, the institutional minimum index requirements, and a institutionally defined provisional admission requirements.

Students applying to a four year institution after participating in an ASCENT program year will be required to meet the appropriate admission standard for the amount of credits earned. These students however will be considered first time freshman for data reporting purposes.

Recommended changes to the Admission Standards Policy are included as Appendix B.

Revisions to Budget and Finance Policy Part D: Policy for Public Institutional Reporting College Opportunity Fund Student Credit Hour Stipend Enrollment

Course credit hours earned pursuant to C.R.S. 22-35-101 are eligible for student stipend payments. The recommended changes reflect the statutory language and other requirements for eligibility of payment.

Recommended changes to the Policy for Public Institutional Reporting College Opportunity Fund Student Credit Hour Stipend Enrollment are included as Appendix C.

Revisions to Information and Management Policy Part B: Policy for Reporting Full-Time Equivalent Student Enrollment

Existing FTE policy language references programs that are being replaced by the concurrent enrollment program and the ASCENT program. Changes to section 5.01.05 recognize these new programs created by the concurrent enrollment act.

Recommended changes to the Policy for Policy for Reporting Full-Time Equivalent Student Enrollment are included as Appendix D.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission approve the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board recommended revisions to the following policies:

- 1. Academic Affairs Policy Part E: Statewide Remedial Education Policy**
- 2. Academic Affairs Policy Part F: Admissions Standards Policy**
- 3. Budget and Finance Policy Part D: Policy for Public Institutional Reporting College Opportunity Fund Student Credit Hour Stipend Enrollment**
- 4. Information and Management Policy Part B: Policy for Reporting Full-Time Equivalent Student Enrollment**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §22-35-107