

TOPIC: CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE

PREPARED BY: DR. BETH BEAN, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION AND TAMARA WHITE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINSSION AND ACCESS POLICY

I. SUMMARY

State law (CRS 22-35-107) requires the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board (CEAB) to report to the Commission concerning the improvement or updating of concurrent enrollment programs. At its December 16, 2010 meeting, the CEAB formally recommended changes to the Statewide Remedial Education policy, Admission Standards policy, COF policy, and FTE policy.

In accordance with C.R.S. 22-35-107, the CEAB is providing the Commission with two reports:

- Memorandum on Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act guidelines and recommendations (Appendix A).
- The Report on Concurrent Enrollment for 2010-11 School Year (Appendix B).

II. BACKGROUND

In May 2009, Colorado State Legislature passed HB09-1319 and SB09-285 (hereafter the “Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act” or CRS 22-35-101 et seq). The intent of the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act is to broaden access to and improve the quality of Concurrent Enrollment programs, improve coordination between institutions of secondary education and institutions of higher education, and ensure financial transparency and accountability. Beyond coordinating and clarifying the existing Concurrent Enrollment programs, the legislation also creates the “5th year” ASCENT program and establishes the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board within the Colorado Department of Education. The Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board (CEAB) consists of members appointed by the Governor, Executive Director of Department of Higher Education and Commissioner of the Department of Education.

Role of the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board As defined in 22-35-107 (6)(a) through (d) The Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board duties include:

- Establishing guidelines for the administration of the ASCENT program;
- Advising and assisting local school education providers and institutions of higher education in preparing cooperative agreements;

- Making recommendations as necessary to the general assembly, the State Board of Education, and the Commission on Higher Education concerning the improvement or updating of state policies relating to concurrent enrollment programs, including but not limited to recommendations of policies that will allow every local education provider in the state to have adequate resources to enter into at least one cooperative agreement; and
- Considering and making recommendations to the State Board of Education and the education committees of the House of Representatives and Senate, regarding the feasibility of a wavier process for a qualified student to apply to the Colorado Department of Education to be designated as an ASCENT program participant in the second year following the year in which he or she was enrolled in the twelfth grade.

Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board Reporting Requirements Pursuant to the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (section 22-35-107 (7)(a) (b), C.R.S.), the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board is required to prepare a report and submit it to the State Board of Education and the Commission on Higher Education regarding any guidelines that the board has established for the administration of the ASCENT program; and any recommendations that the board makes concerning the improvement or updating of state policies relating to concurrent enrollment programs.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Progress of the CEAB on Reporting Requirements

- **ASCENT Guidelines**

On March 15, 2010, the CEAB finalized the guidelines for the ASCENT program. No revisions to guidelines are recommended for the 2012 academic school year.

- **Recommendations for Improvement or Updating of State Policies**

The Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board has reviewed current policies regarding concurrent enrollment opportunities for Colorado students. Based on Year 1 implementation for the Concurrent Enrollment Act, the board has determined that no recommendations are needed at this time for updating state K-12 policies.

- **Recommendations on Waiver Provision**

The Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board recommends the inclusion of a process allowing an ASCENT student the opportunity to apply to the Department of Education for a waiver, which would allow the student to be designated by the Department of Education as an

ASCENT program participant in the second year following the year in which he or she was enrolled in the twelfth grade. On November 17, 2011, the CEAB finalized guidelines and forms for the 6th year waiver. See Appendix C for a copy of the 6th year waiver checklist. See Appendix D for the draft 6th year waiver agreement. The CEAB drafted documents on the waiver process. These documents were sent to the Education Committee of the House and the Senate as a recommendation.

Summary of the Report on Concurrent Enrollment for 2010-11 School Year For the 2010-11 academic year, participation in concurrent enrollment programs increased by 7,829 students as compared to the previous year. In 2009-10, we had 1,531 students participate in a concurrent enrollment program. In 2010-11, we had 9,360 students participate in a concurrent enrollment program. The report shows the unduplicated student count for participating institutions of higher education, participation numbers for ASCENT and current enrollment numbers by institution of higher education (IHE) and local education provider (LEP).

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

No action is required. This is an information item only.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §22-35-107