

TOPIC: COLORADO ASSET IMPLEMENTATION

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I. SUMMARY

Department implementation of Senate Bill 13-033 (The ASSET bill) is nearing completion. This Information Item provides an update on this process.

II. BACKGROUND

On April 29, Governor Hickenlooper signed Senate Bill 13-033 (The ASSET bill) into law. ASSET provides an additional pathway for students to qualify for in-state tuition classification at Colorado institutions of higher education. Colorado high school graduates or GED recipients who attended at least three years of high school in Colorado and are admitted into a public college or university in Colorado within 12 months of graduation may be considered to qualify for in-state tuition. This provision expanded an already existing law to include students without lawful immigration status by exempting institutions of higher education from lawful presence provisions under 24-76.5-103 (HB 06-1023).

Students without lawful presence who qualify for in-state tuition under ASSET must also complete an affidavit stating that he/she has met the ASSET requirements and will apply for lawful presence as soon as he/she is eligible to do so. ASSET students are eligible to receive a College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend and may be eligible for private or institutional aid.

Department staff has been working closely with the Office of the Attorney General and representatives from institutions to develop an implementation plan to ensure a smooth transition for eligible students. Based upon feedback from institutions and the Office of the Attorney General, DHE staff assembled a list of Frequently Asked Question's (FAQs) to provide guidance to campus enrollment personnel (Attachment A) and a paper COF application (Attachment B) for students currently in the pipeline. At the time of the writing of this agenda item (5/31/13), the Department had received 93 paper COF applications with completed affidavits. Effective June 1, 2013, the affidavit will be available as part of the COF application on the new COF website, recently redesigned by Department staff.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no recommendation; this item is for information only.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-7-110