

**TOPIC: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER SUPPLEMENTAL
ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION FROM COLORADO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM**

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POLICY**

I. SUMMARY

The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) is requesting authorization to offer Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI), pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5) and the SAI policy (CCHE Policy I, W). Please see attached proposal (Attachment A). CCCS seeks authorization to offer credit-bearing SAI for College Composition and Reading (CCR) 093 and CCR 094 and Mathematics (MAT) 092 and MAT 093.

II. BACKGROUND

C.R.S. 23-1-113.1 gives the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (Commission) the authority to grant authorization to state supported institutions to offer SAI. The SAI policy, adopted by the Commission in 2013, allows state institutions the opportunity to offer courses to support students with limited academic deficiencies. Once authorized by the Commission, an institution is eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

According to CCHE's SAI policy, institutions planning to offer SAI must submit a proposal to the Commission indicating how and for which students they intend to implement the option. Proposals will include information about the institution's SAI assessment plan, its definition of limited academic deficiency, placement scores, intervention processes, and evaluation measures. Institutions may receive preliminary three-year authorization, after which they will be re-evaluated on the success of their implementation of SAI. The Department of Higher Education (Department) has taken on the responsibility of collecting and analyzing student SAI records. The Department will report the outcomes of SAI programs on an annual basis.

The table below shows Colorado's current Remedial Education Policy placement scores. Institutions use these scores to determine if a student is ready to enter into a college-level course in English and/or mathematics. Prior to the SAI policy, a student admitted into a four-year institution that scored a few points below the cut scores was typically required to enroll in a community college for remedial courses. The CCHE's SAI policy allows many such students to stay at their home institution and complete their general education course with SAI support, thus enabling them to finish college faster with fewer obstacles.

Skill Area	ACT Subscore	SAT Subscore	Accuplacer Score
Mathematics	Math 19	Math 460	Elementary Algebra 85
Writing	English 18	Verbal 440	Sentence Skills 95
Reading	Reading 17	Verbal 430	Reading Comprehension 80

For clarity of the attached proposal, the following definitions are used in the current SAI Policy:

Limited academic deficiency refers to the reading, writing and/or mathematics skills levels of a student who has been admitted to an institution, but has failed to meet the minimum threshold placement score for college level coursework as determined by the Remedial Education Policy. The range of placement scores that define limited academic deficiency may differ according to each institution’s role and mission.

Credit-Bearing Supplemental Academic Instruction means credit-bearing co-requisite instruction in English or mathematics for students with limited academic deficiencies (as defined in section 2.03) that accompany credit-bearing college level, general education English and/or mathematics courses approved for statewide transfer pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-125(3). SAI does not include basic skills courses*, as defined in C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5). Institutions will determine if SAI credits will be considered towards a degree. Authorized institutions will be eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend payments from the state, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

** Institutions with a two-year role and mission may receive COF for basic skills courses pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-113.3. (This note does not appear in the SAI policy)*

Noncredit-Bearing Supplemental Academic Instruction means noncredit-bearing co-requisite instruction in English or mathematics for students with limited academic deficiencies (as defined in section 2.03) that accompany credit-bearing college level, general education English and/or mathematics courses approved for statewide transfer pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-125(3). SAI does not include basic skills courses, as defined in C.R.S. 23-1-113(1.5). Noncredit-bearing SAI will not be eligible for COF stipend payments from the state, pursuant to the C.R.S. 23-1-113.3.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Remedial education is changing nationally. While Colorado is out in the front of this change in many ways, it is likely that some of the definitions and approaches currently in use will continue to evolve. The term “supplemental academic instruction” is not a nationally accepted term, rather it is a Colorado-specific term, defined in Colorado statute and policy as assistance provided to students who fall slightly below the college-ready “cut score” who would otherwise be placed into traditional remedial coursework. Many states are implementing other new approaches to remedial education, including accelerated courses, parallel laboratories, and various forms of co-requisite remediation. In this changing environment, it is becoming increasingly difficult to

differentiate clearly between remedial education, approaches that we call supplemental academic instruction, co-requisite remedial education and other approaches to supporting students.

CCCS's approach to education for students who fall slightly below the college-ready cut score, described in more detail below, would nationally be considered as co-requisite remedial education; while Department staff agrees, we nonetheless bring this item to CCHE for SAI authorization so that Department staff can effectively follow the implementation of SAI statewide and track student success under various approaches. We are not certain how these definitions will change in the future. Staff believes that the best course of action at this time is to authorize CCCS to offer SAI courses. Staff is currently reviewing the SAI policy and working with Colorado institutions of higher education to adapt this policy to ongoing changes and to better fit within the Colorado system.

Following are the specifics of the CCCS SAI authorization request.

I. Definition of limited academic deficiency and cut scores:

MATHEMATICS

CCCS requires all students who score below college-level to take the Accuplacer and/or a college developed secondary assessment to determine course placement.

Limited academic deficiency is defined using these Accuplacer scores below (EA=Elementary Algebra):

MAT 092 – EA 80-85

MAT 093 – EA 80-85

ENGLISH

CCCS requires all students who score below college-level to take the Accuplacer and/or a college developed secondary assessment in order to determine placement.

Limited academic deficiency is defined by these Accuplacer scores below (RC= Reading comprehension, SS= Sentence skills):

CCR 093 and CCR 094 - RC 62-79 and/or SS 70-94 or both

CCCS will advise students on placement based on their assessment scores. The SAI courses are contextualized and therefore will require communication from the beginning and development of the course with the gtPathways credit-bearing co-requisite course. Most of the SAI courses are contextualized to the course they are connected with. CCCS will use successful completion of co-requisite college-level courses as their measurement of student success in SAI.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Department staff recommends the Commission formally authorize CCCS to offer SAI for CCR 093 (Studio D), CCR 094 (Studio 121), MAT 092 (Quant Lab), and MAT 093 (Algebra Lab).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-113