

TOPIC: RENEWAL OF COLORADO-NEW MEXICO RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT

PREPARED BY: TODD HAGGERTY, LEAD FINANCE ANALYST & DR. IAN MACGILLIVRAY, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. SUMMARY

This information item is an update on the renewal of Colorado’s reciprocity agreement with New Mexico, which expires June 30, 2015. The department seeks to maintain the current 500 student full-time equivalent (SFTE) enrollment cap, modify the annual SFTE allocations and renew the agreement for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. An action item to approve the agreement will be brought forward in June.

II. BACKGROUND

Since academic year 1981-1982, Colorado and New Mexico have had a reciprocity agreement to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students of both states. The agreement extends opportunities to a specific number of SFTE students from New Mexico to attend participating institutions in Colorado at the Colorado institutions’ resident tuition rates. Likewise, the same number of SFTE Colorado students may attend specified New Mexico institutions at the resident rate of those New Mexico institutions. As the program is reciprocal, no state funds are exchanged between the two states.

Colorado statute and CCHE policy limits the participation of Colorado institutions based on the application of the *closest college concept*, which is defined as “a postsecondary education institution that is located the shortest distance by passable road from the student's place of residence and that offers the program desired by the student.”

The Commission gives each participating institution in Colorado an SFTE allocation from the total available SFTEs. Allocations are modified annually to accommodate changing demand among participants. Currently, Colorado has seven participating institutions: Adams State University; Colorado Mesa University; Colorado State University-Pueblo; Fort Lewis College; Lamar Community College; Otero Junior College; Pueblo Community College; and Trinidad State Junior College. Three institutions—Adams State University, Fort Lewis College and Trinidad State Junior College—historically have accounted for a majority of the overall enrollments, and they continue to do so.

Table 1 shows SFTE enrollment at Colorado institutions from 2011-12 to 2013-14 and proposes new annual SFTE allocations for academic years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. Currently 55.0 SFTE is held in reserve annually and allocated subject to changes in enrollment.

The proposed 2015-2018 allocation would reduce the reserve to 45.0 SFTE and increase the allocations to CSU-Pueblo and Otero Junior College by 5.0 SFTE respectively.

Table 1: SFTE Enrollment by Colorado Institution for Academic Years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 with Proposed 2012-2015 Allocation

Institution	2011-12 SFTE Used	2012-13 SFTE Used	2013-14 SFTE Used	Proposed 2015-2018 Annual Allocations
Adams State University	70.0	73.5	102.6	110.0
Colorado Mesa University	--	5.4	7.4	10.0
CSU-Pueblo	14.6	13.5	16.8	25.0
Fort Lewis College	116.7	109.1	111.4	130.0
Lamar Community College	15.2	21.8	16.7	25.0
Otero Junior College	--	9.3	10.9	10.0
Pueblo Community College	5.7	6.3	8.1	10.0
Trinidad State Junior College	60.5	64.1	104.4	125.0
TOTALS	282.6	303.1	378.3	455.0¹

¹ Note that 45.0 SFTE of the available 500.0 SFTE will be held in reserve and allocated subject to changes in enrollment.

All of New Mexico's public colleges and universities are participants except for the University of New Mexico's Schools of Medicine and Law and the New Mexico Military Institute. Table 2 shows SFTE enrollment at New Mexico institutions from 2011-12 to 2013-14

Table 2: SFTE Enrollment by New Mexico Institution for Academic Years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14

Institution	2011-12 SFTE Used	2012-13 SFTE Used	2013-14 SFTE Used
CNM	0.1	--	--
ENMU	15.0	12.0	14.0
NMHU	30.0	34.0	31.0
NMIMT	20.0	23.0	20.0
NMSU	50.0	53.0	46.0
NNMC	1.0	1.0	1.0
SJC	162.0	143.0	143.0
UNM	50.0	54.0	68.0
WNMU	6.0	7.0	7.0
TOTALS	336.0	327.0	330.0

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Based on program participation figures for Colorado and New Mexico and discussion staff had with participating Colorado institutions, a continuation of the 500.0 student full-time equivalent (SFTE) enrollment cap is warranted. Additionally, both Colorado State University-Pueblo and Otero Junior College have come close to or have exceeded their specific allocations and have requested to increase their allocations by 5.0 SFTE—reducing the SFTE held in reserve from 55.0 SFTE to 45.0 SFTE

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-112 C.R.S.: “...the commission shall identify those circumstances where the waiving of the nonresident differential in tuition rates, on a reciprocal basis with other states, would enhance educational opportunities for Colorado residents... Agreements negotiated between Colorado and other states shall provide for an equal number of resident and nonresident students to be exchanged between the states... The commission shall establish regulations for the administration of this section, based on the application of the closest college concept, and for the reporting to the general assembly of the numbers of students to whom the waivers are given.”