

TOPIC: REVISIONS TO WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE) POLICY DUE TO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND (COF) STIPEND

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I. SUMMARY

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is a program through which students in 15 participating western states may enroll in designated programs at public two-year and four-year institutions at a reduced tuition level. No state appropriation is required for the program.

II. BACKGROUND

Students apply directly to the participating institution they wish to attend and are charged 150 percent of the in-state tuition rate. They are classified as out-of-state for full-time equivalent (FTE) reporting purposes. Governing boards notify the DHE of the designated academic programs and the number of students who may enroll. Institutions report annually the number of students participating in the WUE Program.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

After the inception of the COF stipend in fall 2005, Colorado institutions had to consider changes in tuition pricing. The COF stipend is the state's contribution to each resident student who attends a public Colorado institution. Colorado public colleges and universities may now charge WUE students up to 150 percent of the total in-state tuition for Colorado residents. The amount is equal to the student's share of in-state tuition plus the equivalent of the COF stipend.

An example of the new WUE rate calculation method in Colorado follows. The WUE tuition will vary for each participating institution, but the stipend is the same.

\$2,500	Student share of in-state tuition
\$2,400	COF stipend
\$4,900	Total in-state tuition for CO residents
\$2,450	Additional 50% of total in-state tuition for WUE Students
\$7,350	Total WUE Tuition

Colorado institutions have several options available to them with the new method of calculation. They may choose to include the COF stipend in their calculation; they may choose to only use the student share of in-state tuition for their calculation; or, they may choose to charge an amount less than the total 150 percent in-state tuition (student share plus COF).

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the changes to the WICHE/WUE tuition policy as outlined in the [attached](#) Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Student Services Policies, Section VI, Part L.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-112 The State of Colorado is a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and is given responsibility to administer the program for the State of Colorado.