Draft Tuition Policy Principles

HB 14-1319 requires that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) provide tuition policy recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2015. The following are draft principles to guide the Commission during the development of state tuition policies:

• Establish tuition policy in concert with CCHE’s Master Plan.

  Tuition policies should be designed to help the state meet the goals outlined in CCHE’s Master Plan
  1. Increase the attainment
  2. Improve student success
  3. Enhance access
  4. Develop resources through increases in state funding

• Align state support, tuition, and financial aid policy.

  The major elements of higher education financing policy - appropriations, tuition, and financial aid - need to be considered in concert in order to address college affordability and student access and success. Linking these three elements is essential for making strategic policy decisions that contribute to student access and success while maintaining quality.

• Develop Tuition Policies that Reflect the Share of Responsibility

  Tuition policies should assess and determine the appropriate balance of the role of the state in providing general fund support for higher education and the proportionate share student’s pay.

• One-size Does Not Fit All

  Tuition rates should reflect each institution’s own unique niche - reflecting differing sectors, missions, program offerings, geographic locations, competitive environments, level of state support, and other distinct characteristics.

• Predictability and Clarity

  Promote clarity, simplicity and predictability for students, families and public institutions of higher education.
Next Steps: Develop a Framework

Tuition Policy Components

- Student Population
- Annual/Multi-year
- Flexibility
- Tiers
- Formula
- Caps
- Clarifying Authority
- Roles & Responsibilities
The Tuition Policy Continuum

Least Restrictive
Responsibility lies with the governing boards

Moderately Restrictive
Shared responsibility between the governing boards, CCHE and the executive

Most Restrictive
The General Assembly sets tuition