

## **2009 P-20 Council Policy Concept**

**Version 2.2 11-17-08 w/ Waterous tweaks**

**COMMITTEE: Preparation & Transitions**

**Subcommittee Name: Services to Academically Underprepared Populations ( formerly Remediation)**

**Subcommittee Chairperson: Dan Lucero**

**Question or policy area this concept intends to address:**

**How can the state improve its basic skills (remediation) policies?**

*Choose one of the two following options*

- New Law, Program, or Rule
- Modification to Existing Statutes or Rules

Neither

### **Briefly summarize the policy concept**

The (Services to Academically Underprepared Populations (Remediation) Sub-committee recommends that the Council approve continued research on this question, specifically along the themes of Collaboration Around Curriculum, Colocation and Leveraged Funding, with emphasis on Alignment of Standards and Assessments, Student Services, Data and Policy. Colorado tends to use a common descriptor of "remediation" to describe widely diverse populations of learners and of remedial/developmental/basic education programs. In many respects these programs are uncoordinated and underfunded. This proposal recommends that the state clarify its definitions, review programs to determine what is working and what is not working, improve access to and affordability of effective programs, align and fund programs to address the needs of specific populations and track the impact of those programs in a comprehensive way.

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**Will this idea carry a fiscal impact?**      Ultimately  Yes    No

*If so, please describe this impact, conceptually or economically or both:*

*While the Sub-committee recognizes that effective implementation will require substantial funding, we are not to the point of making specific recommendations. Other states invest heavily in Adult Basic Education, while Colorado provides a minimal \$200,000 to augment federal dollars. Colorado's ABE programs serve 5% of eligible clients. Similar constraints affect school- and college-based remedial*

programs.

***With/Between which agencies will this request require coordination?***

At this point the sub-committee includes representation of K-12, HE, ABE, WorkForce Development and the Foundation Community. Agencies whose cooperation will be encouraged include  
CDHE            CDE            CCCS/CTE            Adult Basic Education Providers  
CDLE/WorkForce Development            ESL (K-12 and HE)            Private Colleges and Occupational  
Schools

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**Who is the subcommittee contact person for this request?**

Dan Lucero

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**Briefly describe the problem or issue that this concept will address.**

- Colorado has an unacceptably high rate of remediation for students entering both 2-year and 4-year colleges.
- Colorado has an unacceptably high rate of adults in need of basic education in reading, writing and math.
- There are multiple, diverse populations of basic/remedial learners, but Colorado lacks a comprehensive system for a) placing them in appropriate courses, b) tracking their progress, and c) reporting/evaluating effectiveness.
- There is much confusion around how we define “remediation” in Colorado: the sub-committee has embraced a 3-tier definition
  - Developmental: Students who have never mastered the materials
  - Remedial a: Students who completed courses, but never grasped the content
  - Remedial b: Students who mastered the material but lost it and need “brush up”
  - These categories apply to both “basic” and “accelerated” remediation
- Colorado lacks consistent and thorough data collection in this area
- There is little coordination or alignment of programs addressing remedial/basic learning needs.
- Funding lags far behind states making progress in this area

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**Describe, in some detail, the specifics of the proposed policy concept.**

- The Sub-committee recommends that the Council give approval to continuing its work, researching and reviewing with a view to making recommendations on the themes of Colocation, Leveraged Funding and Collaboration within 90 days
- The sub-committee will also make recommendations on Alignment of standards and assessments, Student Services, Data and Policy at the same time.

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**Name any agencies or organizations who may support the measure.**

CDHE	CDLE/Workforce Investment Boards and Centers
CDE	Private College and Occupational Schools
CCCS/CTE	Colorado Succeeds
Adult Basic Education Providers	CACTA/CACTE
Bell Policy Center	

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**Name any agencies or organizations who may oppose the measure.**

None that we are aware of: however, the sub-committee proposes to address concerns that have been expressed by stakeholder groups in regard to responsibility and funding.

**Has the state previously attempted this policy concept?**  Yes  No

While several agencies are involved in remedial instruction, there has been no effort to coordinate their work or to bring a comprehensive approach to the issue.

**Have other states enacted similar legislation?**  Yes  No

Several states have addressed the issue: ECS (Bruce Vandal) has received a 3-year Lumina Foundation

grant “Getting Past Go”. His 10/14/2008 memo is attached.

Other studies have been done in Massachusetts, Tennessee, Oklahoma and elsewhere. National studies have been completed by the National Commission on Adult Literacy, the National Center for Education Studies and ProLiteracy America. 24 states are addressing issues around transitions of underprepared populations.