



COLORADO
Department of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Date: January 1, 2016
To: Colorado State Board of Education, Colorado Commission on Higher Education
From: Board Chair Sarah Heath, on behalf of the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board
Re: Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act Recommendations

Background

This memorandum is an update on the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board. In May 2009, Colorado State Legislature passed HB09-1319 and SB09-285 (hereafter the “Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act” or CRS 22-35-101 et seq). The intent of the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act was to broaden access to and improve the quality of Concurrent Enrollment programs, improve coordination between institutions of secondary education and Institutions of Higher Education, and ensure financial transparency and accountability. Beyond coordinating and clarifying the existing Concurrent Enrollment programs, the legislation also established the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board (CEAB) within the Colorado Department of Education (Department).

Role of the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board

As defined in 22-35-107 (6)(a) through (d) The Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board duties include:

1. Establishing guidelines for the administration of the ASCENT program;
2. Advising and assisting local school education providers and institutions of higher education in preparing cooperative agreements;
3. Making recommendations as necessary to the general assembly, the State Board of Education, and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education concerning the improvement or updating of state policies relating to concurrent enrollment programs, including but not limited to recommendations of policies that will allow every local education provider in the state to have adequate resources to enter into at least one cooperative agreement and recommendations on a funding allocation model, to be approved by the State Board of Education on or before July 1, 2013 in the event that the number of qualified students identified by local education providers exceeds available appropriations;
4. Collaborating with persons from the department of education, the department of labor and employment, the community college system, the local district junior colleges, area vocational schools, and the Colorado work force development council to create a set of standard recommendations to advise and assist local education providers in creating cooperative agreements to include course work related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs as options within a local education provider's concurrent enrollment program, and make them available to local education providers by January 1, 2016;
5. Submitting a report to the State Board of Education and Commission on Higher Education to include recommendations on any of the above.



Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (section 22-35-107 (7)(a) (b), C.R.S.), the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board is required to prepare a report and submit it to the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education regarding any guidelines that the board has established for the administration of the ASCENT program; and any recommendations that the board makes concerning the improvement or updating of state policies relating to concurrent enrollment programs.

Progress of the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board on Duties and Reporting Requirements

1. Establishing guidelines for the administration of the ASCENT program

The CEAB first established guidelines for administration of the ASCENT program in 2010, and in 2014 assisted the Department in updating the guidelines to improve alignment with statute and reporting requirements. The CEAB will again review the ASCENT guidelines to support alignment with legislation passed in 2015 impacting ASCENT funding to determine any needed updates.

2. Advising and assisting local school education providers and institutions of higher education in preparing cooperative agreements;

The CEAB continues to work with the Department and the Department of Higher Education to provide guidance to Local Education Providers (LEP) and Institutions of Higher Education (IHE). The CEAB provided feedback to the Department in drafting a Concurrent Enrollment policy and example practices document to provide guidance, support, and ideas for districts, schools, and institutions looking to implement or grow concurrent enrollment opportunities.

3. Recommendations for improvement or updating of state policies

The CEAB continues to assist the Department in reviewing current policies regarding concurrent enrollment opportunities for Colorado students. In the coming year the CEAB will work with the Department in exploring concurrent enrollment process improvement opportunities by providing support and feedback during a facilitated LEAN process improvement project.

4. Recommendations to advise and assist local education providers to include course work related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs as options within concurrent enrollment

The CEAB, collaborating with the Department, the department of labor and employment, the community college system, the local district junior colleges, area vocational schools, and the Colorado work force development council, created a set of standard recommendations for local education providers to include coursework related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs as options within a local education provider's concurrent enrollment program.

