

**BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER**

Handbook Revision: University, State College, Community College
Admission – General Policy (SB327)

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.530 prohibits the Board of Regents from discrimination in the admission of students on account of national origin, religion, age, physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race or color. Existing Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 5, 18, and 26*) reflects NRS 396.530 and establishes related provisions.

The 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature passed Senate Bill 327 (Chapter number pending as of 6/1/21, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*) which revises NRS 396.530 by expanding the definition of discrimination relating to race. Specifically, Senate Bill 327 defines “race” to include ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and traits historically associated with race, including, without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles.

The proposed revision to *Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 5, 18, and 26* will bring the *Handbook* provisions governing admission standards for NSHE universities, state college, and community colleges into compliance with revised provisions of state law enacted under Senate Bill 327.

As of the posting of this document, Senate Bill 327 was pending the Governor’s signature, the final step for formal enactment.

The enrolled version of Senate Bill 327 can be accessed [here](#). See Section 25 only for NSHE applicable provisions.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 5, 18, and 26* of the *Handbook* to align with Senate Bill 327 passed by the 2021 Legislature which revises the definition of discrimination relating to race in regard to the admission of students.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?)

This proposal is brought forward to revise Board policy in response to Senate Bill 327 which revises the definition of race as it concerns prohibiting discrimination against certain classes of individuals during the admission process at NSHE institutions.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

The provisions of Senate Bill 327 support student access.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This policy revision is required for Board policy to remain consistent with State law.
- Adoption of the revised policy will facilitate application of the enacted provision of Senate Bill 327 in prohibiting discrimination of certain individuals during the admission process at NSHE institutions.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None have been presented.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports the proposed policy revision.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 5, 18, and 26*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X
- Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 5
University Admission – General Policy

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 5. University Admission – General Policy

1. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, *color*, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. *As used in this section:*

- a. *“Race” includes ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and traits historically associated with race, including without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles.*
- b. *“Protective hairstyle” includes, without limitation, hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists.*

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POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 18
Community College Admission – General Policy

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 18. Community College Admission – General Policy

1. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, *color*, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. *As used in this section:*

- a. *“Race” includes ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and traits historically associated with race, including without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles.*
- b. *“Protective hairstyle” includes, without limitation, hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists.*

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POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 26
State College Admission – General Policy

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 26. State College Admission – General Policy

2. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, *color*, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. *As used in this section:*

- a. *“Race” includes ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background and traits historically associated with race, including without limitation, hair texture and protective hairstyles.*
- b. *“Protective hairstyle” includes, without limitation, hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists.*

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