

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
HANDBOOK REVISION: MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP CORE CURRICULUM

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

During the November 30 – December 1, 2006, meeting of the Board of Regents, members approved a proposal brought forward at the request of Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman, Legislative Committee on Education (NRS 218.5352), to change the effective date of the Millennium Scholarship core curriculum from 2010 to 2009. During the course of deliberating on the issue, members expressed concern over the fact that some high schools in the state do not offer a fourth year of mathematics as is required for Millennium Scholarship eligibility or sections of mathematics are not available to all students. Therefore, due to no fault of their own some 2009 high school graduates will not meet eligibility requirements. NSHE institutions have committed to offering courses as needed to high school students that will assist in meeting the fourth year mathematics requirement.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy, *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 19*, to provide an exception under certain circumstances for potential Millennium Scholars who are not able to meet the fourth year mathematics requirement, and further authorize the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs to establish procedures for the certification of courses that meet the core curriculum requirements. (See attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This recommendation is brought forward based on testimony before the Board at its November 30-December 1, 2006, meeting as requested by the regents.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- ◆ Providing an exception to the fourth year mathematics requirement under certain circumstances will ensure eligibility for students who are unable to take the fourth year of mathematics because it is not offered by the high school from which they graduated.
- ◆ Establishing procedures for the certification of courses that will meet the core curriculum requirements will ensure appropriate application of the core curriculum policy.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

As proposed the exception for students who are not able to meet the fourth year mathematics requirement is applicable to students graduating in 2009 only. The Nevada Superintendents have guaranteed that after 2009 all high schools in the state will be offering four years of mathematics, but students may still have some difficulty enrolling.

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

Offer no exception for 2009 high school graduates.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 19*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No
- Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 19
Millennium Scholarship Core Curriculum

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

19.14 *Core Curriculum Requirements*

19.14.1 The Board recognizes the importance of a rigorous high school curriculum in adequately preparing students to succeed in college-level courses. Therefore, a student who graduates from a Nevada high school in Spring 2009 and thereafter must successfully complete the following curriculum in high school to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship:

High School Course	Units
English	4
Math (including Algebra II)	4
Natural Science	3
Social Science and History	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	14

19.14.2 *A student who graduates from a Nevada high school in 2009, who was not able to complete the fourth year math requirement established in subsection 1 because it was not offered by the high school from which he or she graduated and the course was not accessible from an NSHE institution, shall be deemed eligible for the scholarship if all other eligibility requirements established in this Chapter are met.*

19.14.3 *The Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs shall develop procedures regarding the certification of high school courses that meet the core curriculum requirements established in subsection 1.*