

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, K-12 Alignment

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At its January 20, 2012, meeting, the Board adopted strategic directions that the System and its institutions are using as a road map for meeting the Board's identified goals and initiatives. As part of the first strategic initiative to increase student achievement, retention and success, the Board set forth the goal to improve remediation efforts and develop new instructional strategies and strengthen K-12 partnerships to ensure students are adequately prepared for the rigors of college level coursework.

As part of the national and state-led effort to increase the rigor and quality of education from Kindergarten through 12th grade, Nevada adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2010. Nevada's adoption and successful implementation of the CCSS will substantially benefit the State as a whole, but particularly Nevada's students, higher education, and the business community. As discussed nationally, there will be a transition period until all students have had the benefit of CCSS instruction throughout their entire elementary and secondary education. During the transition period, it is anticipated that a substantial number of students may not meet the benchmarks established for college readiness or placement into credit-bearing college courses in English and mathematics. Over the past year, the System Office has engaged in a project related to the implementation of the CCSS through a Postsecondary Collaborative grant from the National Governors Association. Members of the State Team working on the grant project include President Mark Curtis; President Bart Patterson; Chancellor Dan Klaich; William Speer, Dean of the College of Education at UNLV; Dr. James W. Guthrie, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education; and Judy Osgood, Senior Policy Analyst, Governor's Office.

As identified through the work of the grant's State Team, Nevada must have transition plans in place to ensure that all students across the State who do not achieve the new college-readiness benchmarks under the new CCSS assessments administered for the first time in 2014-15 will have opportunity in their senior year to address the discipline deficiencies identified through the assessments. Based on the recommendation of the NGA State Team, the NSHE and NDE have begun work on ensuring that the aforementioned transition plans are developed and implemented by 2015, through a formal working group tasked with reporting on the status of the transition plans in each school district.

In addition, the Fresh Look at Nevada's Community Colleges Task Force identified the lack of alignment in courses between Nevada's high schools and colleges, recommended increased dual enrollment opportunities for K-12 students (rec #8), and further acknowledged the importance of embracing the CCSS.

Based upon these converging recommendations and collaborative efforts to prepare Nevada's high school students for the rigors of college, the System Office asked the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) in November 2012, to revisit the AAC's recommendation that the Board adopted in December 2011 (effective Fall 2012) to eliminate the policy under *Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 11* of the *Handbook* that authorized institutions to offer remedial and 100-level courses on a high school campus at a reduced fee approved by the President. That recommendation from the AAC was brought forward in 2011 as one of many fee discounts eliminated through the budget cutting process. The AAC strongly supports the proposal to allow institutions to offer certain courses at a reduced rate in support of K-12 alignment and implementation of the CCSS.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 16* of the *Handbook* to add a *new Section 2* setting forth a statement that recognizes the importance of K-12 alignment with the goals of higher education. In addition, provide that:

1. The NSHE shall work collaboratively with the Nevada Department of Education and the school districts to ensure that every school district in the State has a transition plan in place by 2015-16.
2. NSHE institutions may enter into agreements with school districts to provide college readiness

programs, including remedial and 100-level courses, at a registration fee appropriate to cover the costs of the program, including but not limited to the instructor's salary, supplies and equipment needed, and appropriate overhead costs. The registration fee must be approved by the President. Institutions must report annually to the Board on the programs offered, the number of high school students served, and the approved registration fees charged.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This policy is recommended by System Administration with the support of the Academic Affairs Council to provide the necessary framework and authorization for NSHE institutions to work with the Governor's Office, the Nevada Department of Education, and Nevada's school districts to improve remediation efforts, develop new instructional strategies, and strengthen K-12 partnerships to ensure students are adequately prepared for the rigors of college level coursework. While not specifically referenced in the policy, nothing precludes institutions from also entering into agreements and working with charter schools.

The policy will also facilitate successful postsecondary implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Adoption of the policy will solidify the Board and NSHE support of working collaboratively with K-12 to prepare Nevada high school students for credit-bearing classes and careers.
- Nevada's adoption of the CCSS will substantially increase the rigor and quality of education in Kindergarten through 12th grade in Nevada – a benefit to the State as a whole, but particularly to Nevada's students, higher education, and the business community. While NDE and the school districts are responsible for and are already implementing the CCSS in the K-12 classrooms, support from higher education on behalf of students is critical to ensure clear alignment and use of the standards for college readiness.
- Nevada must have transition plans in place to ensure that all students across the State who do not achieve the college-readiness assessment benchmark will have opportunity in their senior year of high school to address the discipline deficiencies identified through the assessment. The policy will provide institutions the flexibility to work with school districts to help develop or offer a variety of transition courses and options to high school students and prepare students for the rigor of college-level courses.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented at this time.

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

Do not adopt the policy and work with K-12 through existing resources and course fees.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 16, new Section 2
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____

X Fiscal Impact: Yes No _____

Explain: *Institutions that chose to offer remedial and 100-level courses at a reduced registration fee will forgo the revenue otherwise collected under the full registration fee.*

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, *new* SECTION 2
Alignment with K-12

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

INSERT THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTION 2:

Section 2. K-12 Alignment

Nevada's adoption of the Common Core State Standards will substantially increase the rigor and quality of education in Kindergarten through 12th grade in Nevada – a benefit to the State as a whole, but particularly to Nevada's students, higher education, and the business community. Nevada must ensure that all students across the State who do not achieve the college-readiness assessment benchmark will have opportunity in their senior year of high school to address the discipline deficiencies identified through the assessment.

- 1. The NSHE shall work collaboratively with the Nevada Department of Education and the school districts to ensure that every school district in the State has a transition plan in place by 2015-16.*
- 2. NSHE institutions may enter into agreements with school districts to provide college readiness programs, including remedial and 100-level courses at a registration fee appropriate to cover at least the costs of the program, including but not limited to the instructor's salary, supplies and equipment needed, and appropriate overhead costs. The registration fee must be approved by the President. Institutions must report annually to the Board on the programs offered, the number of high school students served, and the approved registration fees charged.*

RENUMBER SECTIONS 2 THRU 39 AS SECTIONS 3 THRU 40.