

# **BOARD OF REGENTS**

## **BRIEFING PAPER**

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: HANDBOOK Revision, Community College Admissions

MEETING DATE: March 1-2, 2018

### **2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

Under existing Board policy governing admission to an NSHE community college, applicants who are seeking a degree or certificate must be a graduate of a high school (or its equivalent) or be a qualified international student (Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 7). Board policy authorizes admission under alternate criteria or test scores that demonstrate college readiness for students who do not meet these admission requirements under procedures and requirements for alternate admissions established by the community college.

Under this provision, an adult education pupil who is working toward a general education diploma may not simultaneously be admitted to a community college in pursuit of a degree or certificate. This matter was brought to staff's attention by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), which is working on a program that would encourage adult education pupils to dual enroll in a workforce program at a community college while pursuing their general education diploma. The State of Nevada received a federal WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) grant that will be used to support NDE in its efforts to develop the program.

To allow community college admission of adult students pursuing an eligible career pathway program, as described above, who are in the process of pursuing a general education diploma, System staff recommends amending Board policy to authorize admission of adult students who are pursuing both a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree or certificate. A high school student (i.e. an applicant who is subject to compulsory high school attendance under NRS Chapter 392) would not be eligible for admission under this new provision.

It is important to note that students who do not have a high school diploma (or its recognized equivalent) may be eligible for Title IV student aid if the student is enrolled in an eligible career pathway program. For purposes of Title IV student aid, an [eligible career pathway program](#) means a program that combines rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that, among other requirements, enable an individual to attain a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and at least one recognized postsecondary credential.

### **3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend Board policy to authorize community colleges to admit an applicant who is seeking to attain a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and a degree or certificate may be admitted. (See the attached policy proposal.)

### **4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

The Nevada Department of Education contacted the System Office to seek clarification on whether students pursuing the eligible career pathway program, as defined under federal guidelines, are eligible for admission to NSHE community colleges.

### **5. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

As discussed in more detail under the background section, this policy proposal supports adult students pursuing eligible career pathways with the goal of entering the workforce as expeditiously as possible.

### **6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- The revision broadly supports the goals of the State of Nevada to help adults obtain a post-secondary degree or certificate, particularly in fields that align with the needs of the industries in Nevada and the regional economy, and also supports NDE in their work with related programs and grants.

**7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been presented.

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

Retain the existing policy.

**9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:**

The Chancellor's Office recommends approval of this policy proposal.

**10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 18
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual
- Other:\_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_X\_\_  
Explain:\_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 18**  
Community College Admissions

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

Section 18. Community College Admission – General Policy

1. In the admission of students, community colleges shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. All applicants seeking a degree or certificate must qualify for admission by satisfying at least one of the following:
  - a. a graduate of a high school or its equivalent; or
  - b. a qualified international student.
3. ***An applicant who is seeking to attain a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and a degree or certificate simultaneously may be admitted. An applicant who is subject to compulsory high school attendance under NRS Chapter 392 is not eligible for admission under this subsection.***
4. A student who does not meet the community college requirements for admission established in subsection 2 may apply to be admitted under alternate criteria or test scores that demonstrate college readiness. Each college shall establish procedures and requirements for such alternate admission.
- [4]5. When admitting a student, the institution may consider the student's standing at a previously attended institution, including, but not limited to, records of disciplinary action.
- [5]6. All applicants for admission shall complete such tests, furnish such information, and meet such deadlines as required by the regulations published in the admissions sections of the catalog governing the semester of initial enrollment. The initial semester of enrollment shall be considered the date of matriculation except where otherwise defined by the institution.
- [6]7. Admission to an NSHE community college implies general admission to the college only and does not constitute admission to a specific curriculum or courses that may require additional admission criteria, as published in the college catalog governing the semester of initial enrollment.
- [7]8. Programs designated as limited entry require fulfillment of selective admissions criteria as contained in the institutional catalog and other appropriate college documents. Continuation in selective admissions programs is likewise contingent upon fulfillment of conditions specified by the institution and contained in official institutional documents.