

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Millennium Scholarship Core Curriculum

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Pursuant to state law (*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 396.930), the Board of Regents defined a core curriculum that students must take to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship beginning in Spring 2010. As defined, the Millennium Scholarship Core Curriculum requires 4 years of English, 4 years of mathematics, 3 years of natural science, and 3 years of social science. This standard exceeds the high school core requirements for university admissions by an additional year of mathematics. Initially, the Board chose to delay the effective date several years in order to give students adequate advance notice of the change in eligibility requirements, hence the 2010 effective date.

In preparation for the 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature, the Legislative Committee on Education (NRS 218.5352) adopted a recommendation and will request a formal bill draft that would amend state law to require a high school course of study to include 4 years of mathematics, as is currently required for Washoe County's *Gateway Curriculum*. (At this time it is not possible to say with any certainty what the effective date of this measure will be, pending the outcome of the Session.) The members of the legislative committee felt strongly that the Board should make applicable the new core curriculum to the 2008 class of high school students, rather than the 2010 class.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 19, Section 19.14, changing the effective date of the Millennium Scholarship Core Curriculum from Spring 2010 to Spring 2008.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This request is brought forward at the request of the Legislative Committee on Education (see attached letter from Senator William Raggio, Chairman, Legislative Committee on Education).

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- ◆ In the long-run, students will benefit from the more challenging academic curriculum required for Millennium Scholarship eligibility.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- ◆ Adequate time for preparation - high school students who are currently juniors will have only one year to ensure that they have taken the courses required for Millennium Scholarship eligibility.

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

- ◆ Leave the effective date for the Millennium Scholarship core curriculum unchanged as Spring 2010;
- OR
- ◆ Change the effective date for Spring 2009 (a compromise between the recommendation of the legislative committee and the existing effective date).

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 19.14*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No____
Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL – *as amended*
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 19.14
Millennium Scholarship Core Curriculum

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

19.14 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 [2010] ***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