





# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: March 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Progress Update on the Implementation of Student Success Task Force Recommendations		Item Number: 3.5	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Executive	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Erik Skinner, Deputy Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

**ISSUE:** This item presents the Board of Governors with information about implementation of the Student Success Task Force recommendations. The primary focus of this report will be an in-depth presentation on the Common Core State Standards led by Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Special Programs Linda Michalowski and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education Deb Sigman.

**BACKGROUND:** The California Community Colleges Board of Governors has adopted a student success agenda to improve our colleges' effectiveness at helping students achieve their educational goals while maintaining our system's historic commitment to access. The student success agenda includes an explicit focus on closing achievement gaps across demographic groups. The framework for this agenda is defined in the findings and recommendations of the Student Success Task Force.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented to provide the Board with information about implementation of the Student Success Task Force recommendations. Board discussion and feedback will be useful to Chancellor's Office staff as we continue implementation.

**ANALYSIS:** In January 2012, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges endorsed the recommendations of the Student Success Task Force. Once implemented, the 22 recommendations contained in the plan will impact nearly every aspect of how the community colleges operate.

Major recommendations address linkages with K-12 schools, student intake and support, instructional programs, and accountability. Taken as a whole, the Task Force recommendations provide a road map that will guide the system as we work to improve the way our colleges help students identify and achieve their educational goals.

Chancellor's Office staff has convened practitioner workgroups to develop specific implementation mechanisms and procedures to accomplish these recommendations. More information on these work groups can be found at:

<http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/Executive/StudentSuccessTaskForce/SSTFWorkGroupsJune2012.pdf>

### **Implementing Recommendation 1.1 - Efforts to Align College and Career Readiness Standards with K-12 Expectations and the Common Core**

The Student Success Task Force recommended that the California Community Colleges collaborate with the California State Board of Education (SBE) and the California Department of Education (CDE) to craft improved K-12 standards that align with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in college and career. The Task Force pointed to the emerging Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as a vehicle to accomplish this objective. Since the time the Board adopted the Task Force recommendations, Chancellor's Office staff and system stakeholders have been actively engaged in Common Core State Standards implementation efforts.

In 2010, the SBE adopted the new standards that define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in transfer-level academic college courses and in workforce training programs that integrate college and career. In 2011, California joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced), one of two multistate consortia awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education to develop an assessment system by the 2014-15 school year that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The goal of Smarter Balanced is to work with member states to develop next-generation assessments that accurately measure student progress toward college- and career-readiness.

Through its member states, and in consultation with the lead standards writers and other national education experts, Smarter Balanced is translating the Common Core State Standards into assessment targets, test blueprints, and, ultimately, assessment items and performance tasks. The Consortium will also establish performance benchmarks that define the level of content and skill mastery that marks students as college- and career-ready. These performance benchmarks will be determined through a deliberative and evidence-based standard-setting process, which will include input from K-12 educators and college and university faculty.

In California, when the new K-12 assessments are implemented in 2014-15, the state will transition its Early Assessment Program (EAP) to this new 11th grade college readiness assessment. Currently,

71 California community colleges use EAP results to place students into college-level math and English for students who demonstrate college readiness on the 11th grade assessment.

In support of the Board's student success agenda, the Chancellor's Office has been actively engaged in state and national discussions regarding the development of the new Smarter Balanced assessments and, in particular, the 11th grade assessment of college and career readiness. Vice Chancellor Linda Michalowski was appointed to represent the California Community Colleges in Consortium discussions related to higher education. Dean of Student Services, Matriculation and Early Assessment Sonia Ortiz-Mercado, coordinates input and responses on Smarter Balanced's development of the new assessment and, in particular, the definition of college and career readiness and performance measures. There are regular meetings with representatives of the California Department of Education, CSU Chancellor's Office and UC Office of the President to coordinate California's implementation.

In addition, higher education representatives, including faculty, are involved in key design decisions with the goal that colleges and universities across Smarter Balanced member states will accept the assessment as evidence that high school students are ready for entry-level, credit-bearing coursework.

#### **Chancellor's Office Activities to Date**

- Active implementation of the EAP in the California Community College system- 71 community colleges accept EAP results for student placement into college-level English and math;
- Launched a joint website with the CSU on the EAP as a communication mechanism for high school students, teachers and counselors, and parents: [www.collegeEAP.org](http://www.collegeEAP.org)
- Developed marketing materials specifically for California Community Colleges outreach efforts
- Secured funding from Hewlett and the Walter S. Johnson Foundations (\$400K) to support California Community Colleges EAP implementation efforts—specifically funding pilots to develop interventions designed to increase student readiness for college, development of the website and marketing materials, and regional and statewide trainings for California Community College faculty, administrators and staff.
- Working collaboratively with Dr. David Conley to provide trainings to California Community College EAP partnerships on local strategies to improve the alignment between high school and college. Currently working with Dr. Conley to explore the development of college readiness indicators using multiple measures, such as high school transcript data, in addition to standardized test scores.

- Working closely with the California Department of Education, convening on February 22 an intersegmental collaborative on the Common Core and new assessments that includes UC and CSU administration and faculty representatives, meeting for the first time on February 22, 2013; and
- Convening on February 28 an Advisory Committee on College and Career Readiness and the Common Core to implement Student Success Task Force recommendation 1.1, provide a venue for California Community College input into the new Smarter Balanced assessments under development, and plan for the transition of the EAP in 2014-15 to the new college readiness assessment.