Title: Student Success and Support Program Institutional Match

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Background

On July 7, 2014, the Board of Governors adopted an amendment to the title 5 regulation governing the required institutional match for Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) categorical funds. The amended regulation reads as follows:

§ 55518. Funding.
(a) The Chancellor shall adopt a funding formula, consistent with the requirements of this section, for allocating Student Success and Support Program funds to community college districts complying with the requirements of this subchapter. Student Success and Support Program funds shall be allocated according to the number of students to receive services at each college and the number of students who received services funded through this subchapter.
(b) Each dollar of state credit Student Success and Support Program funding shall be matched by three dollars, or a lesser amount as determined by the Chancellor, of other district resources devoted to the Student Success and Support Program.
(c) Community college districts that receive Student Success and Support Program funding shall agree to implement the Board of Governors' system of common assessment, if using a standardized assessment test for placement, and implement the Board of Governors' Accountability Scorecard, pursuant to Education Code section 84754.5.

This change was made because many colleges have found themselves unable to sustain a 3:1 match due to the extraordinary recent funding history of the Matriculation/SSSP program, including a 52 percent reduction in 2009-10 followed by near-100 percent increases in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

In order to determine an appropriate match for Credit SSSP funds for 2014-15, the Chancellor’s Office sent a survey to each college, to be completed jointly by the Chief Business Officer and Chief Student Services Officer. A document summarizing the survey results and providing an alternate Match proposal is attached and will be presented for discussion.
Survey Results

- 86 colleges responded to the survey (76.1 percent).
- These colleges represented estimated allocations of $137,968,588 or 79 percent of the $174,952,000 available to be allocated statewide for 2014-15.
- They reported a total of $293,640,649 in matching funds for an overall ratio of 2 to 1.128%.
- We believe these numbers are understated. Comments included in the survey indicated that many colleges were being conservative in their reporting. For example, some colleges did not report expenditures for “transitional services” such as Admissions and Records, Research and Transfer because they feared including them in their base match and then having to replace them with other expenditures if our undefined “transition” period ended.
- According to the survey data, only 19 of the 86 colleges (16.3 percent) would be able to meet the previously proposed match of 3 to 1 for the first $100 million and 2 to 1 for the second $100 million.

Alternative Match Proposal

Use a 2 to 1 match on all credit dollars, including the first $100 million and any subsequent appropriations:

- Taken collectively, the survey colleges exceeded a 2 to 1 match by $17.4 million; and
- 51 of the 86 colleges reporting (59 percent) clearly could meet this match without any adjustment to the definition of eligible match expenditures.

To assist colleges in meeting the 2:1 match, clarify and broaden the definition of what can be counted toward the match:

- Make permanent the “transitional services” that could be counted in 2013-14 as match; and
- Add institutionally-funded tutoring and supplemental instruction costs for at-risk students.