

## **Student Achievement Initiative**

### **What is it?**

A statewide initiative within the community and technical college system to develop an incentive system that rewards colleges for improving student achievement.

### **How did it come about?**

One of the three goals of the State Board's 10-year system direction is: Achieve increased educational attainment for all residents across the state. This is the system's response to addressing that goal.

### **What areas of the college are to be measured?**

The primary areas to be measured are:

- Improving preparation for college level courses
- Building to a year of college credit
- Completing college level math
- Completing certificates, degrees, and apprenticeship training

### **How were the measures developed?**

A system-wide task force – made up of State Board members, trustees, presidents, college administrators, faculty, and State Board staff – developed this initiative. There was also a system-wide advisory committee that provided input, which was comprised of college staff and faculty from the system's councils and commissions. At the beginning, the task force members sought advice from higher education experts across the country who provided insight on potential funding models, measurements, and keys to long-term stability.

### **Who was involved in the process?**

In addition, the system-wide task force held teleconferences with all 34 colleges to introduce the proposal and receive feedback.

### **How will the Student Achievement initiative be implemented?**

The State Board has approved the new measurement system coupled with rewards to colleges for continuous improvements in student success with thanks to the task force and advisory committee [members] for their hard work on this initiative. 2007-08 is designated as a "learning year" so each college can better understand their student make-up and their current level of success in using these measurements, and develop strategies. While the measurements appear simple and direct on the surface, there is much to figure out underneath. The State Board has allocated "start-up" funds to the colleges to start the system, implement the measures, and share and test promising strategies. Incentive funding will be administered on a reward basis starting in September 2009 based on performance in 2008-09.

SBCTC is scheduling student achievement initiative ITV's for colleges throughout the year to develop collective knowledge of the new measures and develop an understanding of how to use them as a tool to garner improvements at each college. The first meeting will be to review the initiatives and baseline years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Colleges will receive their own data before the meetings. Meetings will be set up later in the year to share and identify ways that the colleges can begin to apply what they are learning from the data.