



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEM

TAB 8

October 30, 2009

Discussion Action (Resolution 09-10-29)

Topic

Approval of Student Achievement Awards

Description

In 2006, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges adopted a System Direction with an overall goal to “raise the knowledge and skills of the state’s residents” by increasing educational attainment across the state.

This goal is a substantial challenge for all of higher education, especially for community and technical colleges. Washington’s community and technical colleges serve a wide spectrum of learning needs from adult literacy for immigrants and K12 drop outs through advanced high school students taking college credit classes. Our colleges serve a predominantly working class and low income student population. The median age of our students is 26, 35% are students of color (compared to the state population at 24% people of color), over half are working full or part time, one third are parents, and over half attend college part-time.

The Student Achievement Initiative is a new performance funding system for community and technical colleges. Its purposes are to both improve public accountability by more accurately describing what students achieve from enrolling in our colleges each year, and to provide incentives through financial rewards to colleges for increasing the levels of achievement attained by their students. It represents a shift from funding entirely for enrollment inputs to also funding meaningful outcomes.

Based on the plan for the Student Achievement Initiative adopted by the Board in September 2007, colleges used 2007-08 as their Learning Year, to understand the measures, analyze their data, and identify types of students and areas of curricula for focused attention. 2008-09 was the first performance year, and is the basis for measuring gains in student achievement against each college’s 2006-07 baseline and providing the first Student Achievement awards to each college.

Key Questions

- Do the first rewards advance the Board’s intent for performance funding?

Analysis

Measures. Through a partnership with the Community College Research Center at Columbia University, the college system identified key academic benchmarks that students must meet to successfully complete degrees and certificates. These Achievement points are meaningful for all students across demographic characteristics (race, age, income, employment status), academic program or entering skill levels (basic skills, remedial, workforce education, academic transfer), intensity of enrollment (part-time or full-time enrollment), and type of institution

attended (urban, rural, large, small, community college, technical college). Rigorous data analysis has identified Achievement points that once accomplished, substantially improve students' chances of completing degrees and certificates.

There are four categories of Achievement measures:

1. Building towards college level skills (basic skills gains, passing precollege writing or math)
2. First year retention (earning 15 then 30 college level credits)
3. Completing college level math (passing math courses required for either technical or academic associate degrees)
4. Completions (degrees, certificates, apprenticeship training)

Performance. Between 2006-07 and 2008-09, colleges increased total achievement points by 14 percent compared to student population growth of 4 percent. Not only have more students increased their academic achievement levels, but colleges have increased the share of students making achievement gains. Achievement increased at every milestone, a promising indicator that colleges are building momentum for greater student success in the future.

Funding. In 2007-09 the Board used a new \$4 million state appropriation to provide seed money to colleges for student success strategies. Each college was allocated \$52,000 in 2007-08 and \$67,000 in 2008-09. The Board included a proposal for \$7 million in the system's 2009-11 budget request to the Governor and State Legislature, to carry forward and provide larger rewards over the next two years. The Governor recommended and the Legislature adopted a \$3.5 million proviso for Student Achievement in the final 2009-11 operating budget. In addition to the state funds, the Ford Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation added \$1.6 million in new funds to the Student Achievement rewards. Total funding for Student Achievement in the 2009-11 biennium is \$7.5 million in state funds and \$1.6 million in one-time private foundation grant funds. These dollars will continue to fund seed money allocated to each college, and will provide \$1.8 million in Achievement rewards in 2009-10 and an additional \$1 million for new rewards in 2010-11. A summary of Student Achievement funding is provided in Attachment A.

Consistent with the Board's plan approved in 2007, funding is structured so that colleges are competing against themselves for continuous improvement, rather than with each other for a share of a pool of dollars. Colleges receive a flat rate per point increase. For 2008-09 the flat rate is \$31 per point. Proposed district rewards range from \$4,887 to \$169,434, and are provided in Attachment B.

For 2010-11 the rate will be \$40 per point. If the earned awards exceed the fund level, unfunded points will be banked for incentive rewards the following year.

The Board's plan also called for Student Achievement rewards, once earned, to be on-going funds and added to the district's base budget. Because \$800,000 out of the \$1.8 million for Achievement rewards is one-time grant money, each college will add \$17 per point to their base budget and receive \$16 per point only for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 09-10-29, adopting the allocation of 2009-10 Student Achievement Awards.

Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

2009-2011 Student Achievement Award Funding

	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>Oct 2009 for 2008-09 Performance</u>	<u>Oct 2010 for 2009-10 Performance</u>
Base Awards	\$1,750,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000
State Funded Awards	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
State Funded Awards	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
Ford Foundation Awards	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$0
Gates Foundation Awards	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800,000
FY Total	\$1,750,000	\$2,250,000	\$4,050,000	\$5,050,000
Funding per point			\$31	\$40
Points generated			59,000	25,000

Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

**October 2009 Student Achievement Awards
for 2008-09 Performance**

District	Student Achievement Awards
Bates	\$33,126
Bellevue	\$81,006
Bellingham	\$51,127
Big Bend	\$35,229
Cascadia	\$25,765
Centralia	\$7,763
Clark	\$107,327
Clover Park	\$56,231
Columbia Basin	\$86,264
Edmonds	\$113,265
Everett	\$102,842
Grays Harbor	\$16,455
Green River	\$72,716
Highline	\$112,956
Lake Washington	\$36,497
Lower Columbia	\$51,158
Olympic	\$55,860
Peninsula	\$50,601
Pierce	\$64,829
Renton	\$42,250
Seattle	\$146,732
Shoreline	\$38,508
Skagit Valley	\$28,672
South Puget Sound	\$43,426
Spokane	\$169,434
Tacoma	\$66,994
Walla Walla	\$19,764
Wenatchee Valley	\$4,887
Whatcom	\$24,991
Yakima Valley	\$53,323
College Total	\$1,800,000

STATE OF WASHINGTON
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES
RESOLUTION 09-10-29

A resolution relating to the Student Achievement Initiative Awards

WHEREAS, the Board established the Student Achievement Initiative to reward colleges for improvements in increasing student success and to shift a portion of funding from enrollments to performance; and

WHEREAS, the Student Achievement Initiative measures colleges for the intermediate outcomes that students achieve, leading to and completing college certificates and degrees; and

WHEREAS, state funds for Student Achievement were provided in the 2009-11 budget and Foundation grant funds were awarded to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges for 2009-11; and

WHEREAS, all colleges accomplished net increases in Student Achievement between the baseline year 2006-07 and the first performance year 2008-09; and

WHEREAS, these funds are awarded to the colleges based on their own achievement gains;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges approves the 2008-09 distribution of \$1,800,000 to support the Student Achievement Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rate for 2010-11 be set at \$40 per Achievement point; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes the Executive Director to make adjustments, as necessary, for actions taken by the Governor, computational errors, data corrections, externally imposed restrictions or guidelines, legislative appropriation provisos, restrictions, guidelines, uniform accounting and reporting requirements, and unanticipated changes in state or federal funding.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on October 30, 2009.

 J.A. Bricker, Chair

ATTEST:

 Charles N. Earl, Secretary