

## P-16 College Readiness and Success Plan

*Goal: To ensure that every Texas student is college ready<sup>1</sup> when exiting high school and is competitive in a global economy upon timely completion of a post-secondary degree.*

### JOINT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The following goals and action items are aimed at ensuring that all students are academically ready and prepared for post-secondary opportunities in the new millennium. In collaboration with educational stakeholders at both the public education and higher education levels, it is imperative to address the challenges that exist in public and higher education in Texas so that all students are ready for college, ready for work, ready for life.

The activities listed below will be completed in phases, as a foundation for college readiness expectations must be established before the other necessary building blocks can be put into place.

*Objective 1: Define standards<sup>2</sup> and expectations for college readiness for the state that address what students must know and be able to do to succeed in entry-level college/university courses.*

- **Action Item 1.1:** Select college/university, and secondary public education faculty to serve on review committees that recommend college readiness standards and expectations initially in writing, critical thinking, reading and mathematics, and subsequently science and social studies.
- **Action Item 1.2:** Arrange meetings for faculty committees from higher and public education to discuss and recommend college readiness standards and expectations.
- **Action Item 1.3:** Present expectations for statewide review and comment by faculty, business, public and other stakeholders, including the SBOE and other state and local policymakers.
- **Action Item 1.4:** Obtain endorsement of college readiness standards and expectations by P-16 Council.
- **Action Item 1.5:** Present standards to appropriate THECB subcommittees and Commissioner of Education advisory committees for discussion.
- **Action Item 1.6:** Present college readiness standards to THECB and Commissioner of Education for adoption.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this document, ensuring that a student is college ready presumes that they will also have the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to pursue entry-level work interests that do not require advanced learning (e.g., certificate or four year degree).

<sup>2</sup> "Standards" is defined as the level at which students should achieve the knowledge and skills necessary to begin entry-level college coursework.

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- **Action Item 1.7:** Hold statewide forums to discuss implications surrounding implementation of the college readiness standards.

Tentative Completion Date: November 2006

Objective 2: Align exit-level assessments in public education with higher education entry-level expectations.

- **Action Item 2.1:** Review public education exit-level assessments and higher education entry-level course expectations for gaps in knowledge and skills. August 2007
- **Action Item 2.2:** Evaluate the need and use for multiple higher education admissions and placement assessments. August 2007

Objective 3: Provide high school graduation requirements that academically prepare students for success in entry-level college/university courses, career pursuits, or advanced training.

- **Action Item 3.1:** Develop strategies and parameters for the alignment of P-12 curriculum and higher education curriculum in core subjects.
  - Create vertical teams, by discipline, of P-12 educators and higher education faculty.
  - Review course numbering systems in public education and higher education and make recommendations and revisions to create consistency across the state.
- **Action Item 3.2:** Consult with the SBOE about increasing the rigor of the high school curriculum to 4x4x4x4 (English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies).
- **Action Item 3.3:** Jointly develop strategies to decrease the number of students entering developmental education programs at institutions of higher education (IHEs).
  - Establish guidelines for delineating between the need for remediation courses versus the need for refresher courses.

Tentative Completion Date: March 2007

Objective 4: Establish sound accountability measures for college readiness in public education and for persistence and timely graduation in higher education.

- **Action Item 4.1:** Consider requirement for an annual joint accountability report reflecting college readiness of P-12 system and “student readiness” of

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higher education in terms of how well institutions of higher education perform with students once they are enrolled.

- **Action Item 4.2:** TEA will report a series of college readiness measures by school district on an annual basis.
- **Action Item 4.3:** TEA and THECB will review the current method that school districts use to publish college remediation rates and other college-related data for students as provided by the Coordinating Board.
- **Action Item 4.4:** THECB will develop P16 accountability measures for IHEs in Texas.
- **Action Item 4.5:** Develop process for validating expectations identified against actual student performance in higher education.

Tentative Completion Date: January 2007

Objective 5: Increase college awareness and create a college going culture in every school in Texas.

- **Action Item 5.1:** Develop a coordinated outreach strategy for developing a college going culture for students and parents across the state.
  - Continue work to develop coordinated communications plan with Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation.
  - Consult with the SBOE about opportunities to build references to post-secondary opportunities and preparation requirements into TEKS.
  - Pursue partnerships with other state and local agencies to disseminate post-secondary success information.
- **Action Item 5.2:** Develop strategies to provide post-secondary learning opportunities for every student graduating from high school.

Tentative Completion Date: January 2007

Objective 6: Prepare education professionals in public and higher education to assist students in meeting college readiness expectations and standards.

- **Action Item 6.1:** Incorporate college readiness training into educator preparation program training.
- **Action Item 6.2:** Provide pre-service and in-service training opportunities to P-12 educators.
- **Action Item 6.3:** Provide professional development opportunities to higher education faculty.

Tentative Completion Date: January 2008

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Objective 7: Coordinate college readiness and success plan objectives with strategies for persistence and timely graduation included in the Coordinating Board's "Closing the Gap" plan. ONGOING ACTIVITY

Objective 8: Provide greater access to student academic preparation programs, including challenging advanced academic courses and programs, in all public high schools in Texas.

- **Action Item 8.1:** Ensure that core curriculum courses offered for dual credit satisfy the requirement that they “meet (include) and exceed” the TEKS.
- **Action Item 8.2:** Standardize the extent to which AP and IB courses are accepted for college credit throughout the state.
- **Action Item 8.3:** Pursue additional federal grant opportunities, including AP and SMART grants.
- **Action Item 8.4:** Increase access to advanced academic courses statewide by expanding distance learning offerings and eliminating institutional and communication barriers to dual credit attainment.
- **Action Item 8.5:** Develop plan for maximizing academic preparation for college for all students during senior year.
  - Expand the use of the senior year (and summers before and after) to provide accelerated instruction to those students who did not meet the college readiness standard on the exit-level assessment.
  - Expand opportunities for students who met the college readiness standard on the exit-level assessment to earn advanced academic credits (AP, dual credit, early college courses) during the senior year.

Tentative Completion Date: January 2008

## TEA-FOCUSED GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

### PROPOSED PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Review feasibility of developing a uniform GPA system across school districts.
2. Continue to review and make recommendations for ways to improve access to and the quality of advanced academic opportunities and programs that promote student enrollment in advanced courses (dual credit, AP, IB, Early College High School programs).
3. Strengthen role of academic advising at elementary and secondary levels, including requiring a P-16 Individualized Graduation Plan for all students.

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4. Consider adding a service-learning course for credit or professional internship component during the senior year in high school.
5. Develop a High School Completion and Success Strategic Plan for the state. This is a plan that shows how the agency is moving toward ensuring that high schools graduate all students prepared for postsecondary success.

## **LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

To Be Determined

## **CONCLUSION**

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## Current College Readiness – Related Indicators

Each of these indicators is used in the Gold Performance Acknowledgment (GPA) system and all will be reported on the 2005-06 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) reports. These indicators are created and reported for both schools and districts. Because they are used in the GPA system, standards have been set, minimum size criteria established, and decisions have been made regarding the evaluation of student groups.

TEA will review the current format of the AEIS report to determine the extent that the AEIS report format can be modified so that these indicators are presented grouped together in the same area of the report. Where possible, report two years of data for each indicator.

- ◆ Advanced Course/Dual Enrollment Completion
- ◆ Advanced Placement / International Baccalaureate Results
- ◆ SAT/ACT Results (College Admissions Tests)
- ◆ Texas Success Initiative (TSI): Higher Education Readiness Component (HERC) – English Language Arts
- ◆ Texas Success Initiative (TSI): Higher Education Readiness Component (HERC) – Mathematics
- ◆ Grade 11 Commended Performance on TAKS (available for four subjects)
- ◆ Recommended High School Program / Distinguished Achievement Program Graduates

Presented to  
Senate Select Committee on Education Reform  
and Public School Finance  
April 3, 2006 P/16 Plan Objective 4