

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF INSTITUTIONAL PLANS FOR THE REDUCTION OF REMEDIATION EXPENDITURES

Background

Act 1141 of 1993 directs all public colleges and universities to report annually to the Department of Higher Education on expenditures and revenues received for remediation. The act provides that the State Board of Higher Education develop a plan consistent with the mission of each institution for the orderly reduction of state funds expended on remediation.

Act 1052 of 1987 requires all public colleges and universities to remediate all entering students not having the necessary skills. Placement test data from the past three years indicate that 40-50 percent of entering college freshmen require some remediation.

Annual Reporting Requirement and Data Collection

Each public two-year and four-year institution will submit to the Department of Higher Education an annual report that includes the following:

1. Total direct and indirect costs of remediation for the previous academic year
2. All sources of revenue, by amount and source, used to fund direct and indirect costs of all remedial courses and programs

This information will be collected through the Uniform Reporting process (see Act 537 of 1993) beginning with the academic year. Restricted funds employed to create academic support programs for special populations will not be considered remediation expenditures. Private and federal funds will not be counted, consistent with Act 1141.

Since the uniform reporting process commences with the academic year, data on expenditures and revenues for remediation for the academic year must be collected by other means. The ADHE staff will develop and distribute forms for the collection of data on direct expenditures and revenues for consistent with the data being collected under uniform reporting. State funds will include both state education and general funds and tuition funds.

Institutional Plans for Reduction of Remediation Expenditures

Each four-year institution will develop a five-year plan for the orderly reduction of remediation expenditures. Institutional proposals will follow the general criteria set forth in this plan but may incorporate campus-specific elements designed meet the objectives of the law.

All institutional plans must address a set of common concerns. In order to ensure that each campus takes these concerns into account, all institutional plans should address the following points:

1. The importance of student body diversity.
2. The expected consequences of higher standards that result from implementation of the plan, stating how these standards will serve to improve the quality of undergraduate education and contribute to the academic success of the students.
3. If applicable, effect a significant reduction in the number of out-of-state students enrolled in remedial courses.
4. Prohibit high school students from enrolling in college remedial courses.
5. Limit to two the number of times a student may repeat a remedial course.
6. Include a section on plans to implement Act 969 of 1993, which concerns conditional admissions. Describe how this requirement might affect the remedial program.
7. Avoid cost-cutting strategies that might jeopardize the quality of remedial programs.
8. Include proposed annual percentage reductions in remediation expenditures for students 21 years of age and younger.
9. Institutional Board of Trustees approval of the plan.

As a matter of course through the uniform reporting system and other means, ADHE will collect data to aid in monitoring the success of the plan. Those data will include

1. The institutional mission statements
2. Reports on remedial courses and program offerings and enrollments for the past five years, reports on the retention rates of remedial students through graduation, and consultant recommendations from the 1992-93 State Board review of developmental education programs.

In order to reduce expenditures for remediation, institutions may initiate any number of strategies consistent with the law and with this plan. Such strategies might include some of the following elements:

1. Changes in admission standards.
2. Establishing appropriate entry-level remedial courses.

3. Requiring students to pay the full cost of instruction for repeat remedial courses.
4. Reducing allowable credit load for students enrolled in remedial courses.
5. Contracting with other institutions to deliver remedial courses.
6. Increasing class sizes for remedial courses.
7. Initiating summer bridge programs for high school graduates whose scores indicate need for remediation.

ADHE Review and SBHE Action*

Draft plans will be due by November 1, 1994. The Department of Higher Education will review the draft plans and work with the institutions on development of final five-year plans by December 15, 1994. The State Board will consider the proposed plans in January 1995.

Recommendation Concerning Two-Year Colleges

Act 1141 requires annual remediation expenditure and revenue reports from both four-year and two-year colleges. The act does not require a ceiling on remediation expenditures or a plan for reduction of remediation expenditures at two-year colleges. Nevertheless, the reduction of remediation expenditures at four-year institutions may affect the demand for remediation at two-year colleges. In order to help two-year institutions determine how to handle the consequences of plan implementation, the ADHE staff will monitor for civil rights impacts and for other unexpected consequences. ADHE staff will work with administrators to develop a statewide strategy for managing the transition.

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