

REVISED GOALS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

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ACTION SCHEDULED

Committee of: The Whole
Rosemary E. Thakar, Chair

Presentation: Christopher E. Cabaldon, Vice Chancellor
Policy, Planning, and External Affairs

Issue

This item presents the proposed revisions to the goals for the *Partnership for Excellence* program.

Background

The 1998 legislation establishing the *Partnership for Excellence*, *Education Code* Section 84754(b)(1) provides the Board of Governors with direction in setting the goals and outcome measures. Specifically stated, “. . . The goals shall be rigorous and challenging to the system, and exceed what could be expected to occur based on increases in funded enrollment. In developing the goals and outcome measures, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall seek the concurrence of the Director of Finance, the Legislative Analyst, and the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC).”

In January 1999, the Board of Governors adopted the five goals for the *Partnership for Excellence*, following extensive consultation with internal constituencies and external agencies.

Goal 1 focused on the number of transfers from the community colleges to baccalaureate institutions (the University of California (UC) system, the California State University (CSU) system, and independent or out-of-state colleges).

Goal 2 examined the number of degrees and certificates (that is, certificates for 18 or more course units) awarded.

Goal 3 specified successful course completion (that is, the percent of attempted courses that resulted in a grade of A, B, C, or CR).

Goal 4 dealt with workforce development (that is, the successful completion of courses in the categories of Apprenticeship, Advanced Occupational, or Clearly Occupational).

Goal 5 considered basic skills improvement (that is, the successful progression of students in a sequence of Math or English courses over multiple enrollment terms).

In December 1999, representatives of the Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst, and the California Postsecondary Education Commission (“the agencies”) transmitted a letter to the Chancellor expressing concerns about the level of performance contained in the *Partnership* goals. In January 2000, the Governor’s Budget indicated that funding for the *Partnership* could be allocated to districts only after the goals had been revised to be “sufficiently rigorous,” as determined through the concurrence of the agencies. The Administration also indicated that further augmentation to the *Partnership* would be contingent on such a revision to the goals. Immediately following release of the Governor’s Budget, the Chancellor’s Office held a series of meetings with the agencies and the Office of the Secretary of Education to meet the Governor’s request for revision. This item represents the outcomes of those meetings, and presents the revised goals that meet the agencies’ concurrence. This item was also presented for concurrence at the Consultation Council meeting on June 15, 2000.

Analysis

The net effect of the proposed change in rigor appears in three of the five aforementioned PFE goals. As shown in the appendices, transfer (Appendix A); degrees and certificates (Appendix B); and workforce development (Appendix C) have some different goal levels while the goal levels of successful course completion and basic skills improvement remain unchanged.

The change in the transfer goal reflects an adjustment in the base year for performance from 1995-96 to 1998-99. The wording and intent of this new sub-goal comports to the transfer goals outlined in the recent CSU Memorandum of Understanding, and is also expected to enhance performance beyond the transfer goal outlined in the UC Memorandum of Understanding. This transfer language is included in the Budget Bill that is pending in the Legislature. The changes to the goals for degrees and certificates and for workforce development reflect an adjustment in the base year for performance from 1995-96 to 1997-98, applying the same net percentage change in outcomes.

Recommended Action

That the Board of Governors approve the proposed revisions to the *Partnership for Excellence* goals, as follows:

- For transfer, add the following sub-goal and adjust the system transfer goal accordingly. Increase the number of transfer-ready students to provide enough applicants to increase by at least 6 percent annually the number of transfer students eligible to enroll at the University of California and by at least 5 percent annually the number of transfer students eligible to enroll at the California State University.
- For degrees and certificates, increase the *Partnership for Excellence* goal from 110,500 to 118,276 (an augmentation of 7,776 awards).
- For workforce development, increase the goal from 1,279,716 to 1,463,665 successfully completed vocational courses (an augmentation of 183,949 successful course completions).

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