

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION**

**COMMITTEE:** Assessment and Accountability

**NO.:** AAC 09-04

**COMMITTEE DATE:** November 14, 2008

**BOARD DATE:** November 21, 2008

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**CHANGE IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS INDICATOR FOR PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves the attached performance indicator for measuring the success of community college students. Further, the Board of Higher Education directs the Department of Higher Education, in collaboration with the community colleges and the Performance Measurement Task Force, to present to the Board of Higher Education a recommendation for an additional performance indicator or indicators to measure the success of community college students who have attempted less than 18 credits during their first two years. Said recommendation shall be made to the Board of Higher Education no later than June 1, 2009.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 7(a)

**Contact:** Jonathan Keller, Associate Commissioner for Research, Planning and Information Systems

## **CHANGE IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS INDICATOR FOR PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The new proposed community college student success indicator was established by the Performance Measurement Task Force, which includes representatives from the state and community colleges. At a Task Force meeting in May 2007, it was determined that the existing Board-approved indicator needed to be revised and enhanced in order to provide greater clarity and usefulness. This original indicator was developed before other states had implemented similar measures. Consequently there was no existing model that had been incorporated into a state-wide accountability report. The Task Force established an advisory team, led by Associate Commissioner Jonathan Keller, to investigate alternative measures used by other states and to make recommendations for a new approach to the measurement of community college student success. The Advisory Team held their final meeting on September 16, 2008, and agreed upon a recommendation for a new performance indicator that was submitted to the full Performance Measurement Taskforce on November 6, 2008. The new community college student success indicator is based on a model that was originally developed in Maryland and has received widespread approval nationally. Associate Commissioner Keller met with the individual who created the Maryland indicator to ensure that the new Massachusetts indicator is as similar as possible to the Maryland model. Several other states have also adopted or are considering adopting this same model. In addition, very similar indicator approaches are being considered by the National Center for Education Statistics, American Association for Community Colleges, Association for Community College Trustees and Achieving the Dream.

## **Overview of the New Community College Student Success Indicator**

### Cohort Definitions

- 1) All first-time and transfer new-degree and non-degree credit students enrolled in fall
- 2) Attempted a minimum of 18 credits during the first two years
- 3) Not enrolled in ESL credit coursework during the first two years

### Success Outcomes

- 1) Graduated from same institution as started
- 2) Transferred to any other institution (utilizing the National Student Clearinghouse data)
- 3) Earned 30 credits
- 4) Still enrolled at college

### Tracking Time Frame

- 1) 4, 5 and 6 years from initial fall term