Recommendation 2.1

Community colleges will develop and implement a common centralized assessment for English reading and writing, mathematics, and ESL that can provide diagnostic information to inform curriculum development and student placement and that, over time, will be aligned with the K-12 Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and assessments.

Requirements for Implementation

- Reconvene the CCC Assess Advisory Committee to guide implementation of this recommendation.

- Design a centralized assessment system that includes a robust array of options to help students prepare to take the assessments for the most valid result. It should include consistent testing and re-testing policies that are decided based on psychometrics rather than budget considerations.

- The centralized assessment must be diagnostic to ensure placement into appropriate coursework and to inform local academic senate as they design appropriate curriculum. It should also include an assessment of "college knowledge" and the extent to which a student understands and exhibits key academic behaviors and habits of mind necessary for success in college. This more robust assessment, coupled with multiple measures, would be used to determine students' needs for additional support and to enable colleges to more effectively place students in appropriate courses and target interventions and services.

- Work with the Academic Senate and the K-12 system to ensure alignment of community college assessment standards with the state's new CCSS assessments when those are implemented in 2014 (see Recommendation 1.1).

- After development of the diagnostic assessment, amend Education Code Section 78213 to require colleges to use the new common assessment for course placement while allowing districts to supplement common assessment with other validated multiple measures.

- Eventually, the Board of Governors would propose to amend Education Code Section 98300 ff. to transition the use of the EAP to the new assessment that is aligned with the K-12 CCSS.

- In the meantime, the enactment of AB 743 will facilitate the interim selection of a currently available "off the shelf" assessment instrument for English, math, and ESL, to be procured in the most cost-effective manner for use statewide.

- One-time funds of $1 million (already secured from outside sources) together with dedicated state-level funding of approximately $5 million would enable the Chancellor's Office, working with the CCC Assess advisory committee, to conduct a centralized procurement of the common assessment. Leveraging the system's buying power will drive down the costs and allow some customization of the assessment. Under this approach, colleges would have unlimited assessment capacity at low or no cost.

- Participation in the interim assessment system would be voluntary but incentivized by the significant local cost savings.

From the Student Success Task Force Final Report

Endorsed by California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott and the California Community Colleges Board of Governors on January 9, 2012

Find full report at

http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/Executive/StudentSuccessTaskForce/SSTF_Final_Report_1-17-12_Print.pdf

Although the CCSF Academic Senate and the City College Board of Trustees have taken positions opposing Task Force recommendations, if /when the CCC Board of Governors implements these recommendations in Title 5 regulations, CCSF will be required to comply.