

**Educational Success Task Force**  
**Monday, August 29, 2011**  
**State Board of Education Room**  
**201 E. Colfax, Denver, CO**  
**Prepared by Kristen Johnson, Legislative Council Staff**

All of the materials referenced in this summary are available on the Education Success Task Force website at: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/EdSuccessTF>.

**1:00 p.m. - Welcome and Introductions**

Senator King welcomed the members of the Educational Success Task Force (task force) to the meeting. At the request of Senator King, Robert Hammond, Commissioner of Education, provided opening remarks. The members of the task force introduced themselves. Several members participated electronically. A list of the meeting attendees is included at the end of this meeting summary.

Senator King commented on the set-up of the task force and how it will provide for collaboration between K-12 and higher education. He stated that the task force will investigate the education continuum and identify the best ways to benchmark success from kindergarten through college. Senator King introduced the legislative members of the committee: Representatives Tom Massey, Chris Holbert, and Rhonda Fields, and Senators Bob Bacon and Evie Hudak. The legislative members commented on the work they would like to see come out of the task force.

Senator King sought comments from the other members of the task force. Members commented on their goals for the task force including: identifying ways to close the achievement gap; understanding how to meet all indicators so that students are successful; learning about the story behind student success or failure; and creating an education system that is student-centered and engages students in learning wherever they are.

**1:30 p.m. - Overview of Senate Bill 11-111**

Julie Pelegrin, Office of Legislative Legal Services, presented a powerpoint, *Task Force Overview*, and provided a summary of Senate Bill 11-111, the task force's enabling legislation. Ms. Pelegrin stated that the charge of the task force is to:

- review data and studies concerning student academic transition points;
- recommend strategies and tools for identifying and remediating students at the specific transition points; and
- work closely with the Governor's Education Leadership Council.

Ms. Pelegrin outlined the duties of the task force, which include:

- reviewing the practice of social promotion and recommending alternative strategies;

- reviewing state statutes, State Board of Education (SBE) rules, and Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) guidelines relating to intervention education services and remedial education and recommending any necessary changes to assist school districts, public schools, and institutions of higher education;
- identifying key academic transition points where performance is critical to ensuring that students can demonstrate postsecondary and workforce readiness no later than high school graduation;
- reviewing data and research on intervention education services and remedial education and identifying best practices and strategies; and
- reviewing the use of student individual career and academic plans (ICAPs) and recommending diagnostic use of assessments to inform ICAPs and the use of intervention strategies.

The task force can recommend up to 8 bills to the Legislative Council. Bill requests must be submitted to the Office of Legislative Legal Services by October 4, 2011. The task force is responsible for providing a progress report to the Education committees of the House and Senate in January 2012 and 2013. Initial findings and recommendations are due in a report to the SBE and CCHE, by July 1, 2012. A final report will also be due by July 1, 2013, if the task force makes additional findings.

### **1:45 p.m. - National Overview of State Remediation Policies**

Bruce Vandal, Director of the Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States, presented a powerpoint regarding the report *Getting Past Go: Rebuilding the Remedial Education Bridge to College*. Mr. Vandal provided an overview of what is happening in the world of remedial education across the nation. Mr. Vandal stated that remedial education is a primary challenge and barrier to states increasing college completion rates. He stated that approximately forty percent of students entering college need some form of remedial education and that significant resources are spent on remedial education, but the results are not where they should be. Mr. Vandal also discussed strategies for providing the remediation piece in a customized way. He stated that assessments to place students may not accurately reflect a student's needs.

### **2:15 p.m. - Overview of Colorado Remediation Policies**

Julie Pelegrin presented the powerpoint titled *Current Statutes Regarding Intervention Education Services and Remedial Education* which outlines the current provisions in Colorado law related to remedial education.

### **2:45 p.m. - 2010 Report on Remedial Education**

Beth Bean, Director of Research and Information, Colorado Department of Higher Education, presented a powerpoint highlighting findings from the department's *2010 Remedial Education Report*, which provides statistics on remediation levels in Colorado.

### **3:15 p.m. - Overview of Complete College America Grant**

Kim Poast, Associate Deputy Director for Access and Student Services, Colorado Department of Higher Education, presented a powerpoint titled *Complete College America: Completion Innovation Challenge Grant*. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded \$1 million grants to ten states that have demonstrated a commitment to:

- shifting to performance funding;
- reducing time-to-degree and accelerating success;
- transforming remediation;
- restructuring delivery for today's student; or
- deploying transformative technology.

Eighty percent of the grant funds are being sent to community colleges in Colorado with the purpose of hiring a statewide dean of developmental education, hiring faculty for tutoring, and for support services, equipment, and student communication. Twenty percent of the grant funds will go to the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

### **3:30 p.m. - Shining a light on College Remediation in Colorado**

Diane Lefly, Director of Research and Evaluation, Colorado Department of Education presented the report, *Shining a Light on College Remediation in Colorado: The Predictive Utility of the ACT for Colorado and the Colorado Student Assessment Program*. The report compares Colorado state assessment data with identified college remediation needs for approximately 17,500 students who graduated from Colorado high schools in spring 2009. The data Dr. Lefly presented shows that students needing remediation in their first year of college could have been identified through an examination of their state assessment scores as early as sixth grade.

### **4:15 p.m. - Work Group Assignments**

The members of the task force decided not to break up into work groups, but rather to stay intact as a large group at least until after the next meeting of the task force. Senator King asked the members for input regarding the next meeting's agenda. Members provided several areas of interest for the next discussion.