

**ADMISSIONS**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Community College Coordinated Early Assessment Pilot Program</b>
<b>Problem</b>	<p>Fewer than half of entering community college students are adequately prepared for college level work and the remainder require at least some basic skills development. The Board of Governors has recognized the significance of this challenge and made it the centerpiece for implementation of the System Strategic Plan, which calls for promoting college awareness and readiness to increase student success, especially for students lacking basic math and/or English skills. Specific strategies to address this challenge include outreach to promote early awareness of college as a viable option, removing barriers to access and student success, addressing basic skills as the foundation for student success, improving assessment and placement and improving articulation with K-12 instruction.</p> <p>The System Strategic Plan supports the principle that early identification of students with academic weaknesses in English and math and subsequent intervention while still in high school could significantly improve their direct placement into college-level courses. Several years ago the California State University (CSU) established an Early Assessment Program (EAP) in collaboration with the K-12 system to assess college readiness and utilize the 12th grade to address basic skills deficiencies. A pilot program for community colleges to collaborate with the CSU EAP would provide the opportunity for coordination and the alignment of all three systems to promote access, preparation and articulation.</p> <p>SB 1563 (Escutia) was introduced in 2006 to enable 25 community colleges to participate in the CSU EAP but was vetoed by the Governor at the behest of the Department of Finance. There was widespread support for the bill both within the system and in the broader education and higher education communities.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there was insufficient time at the end of the legislative session to resolve concerns that were essentially about potential costs. It is likely that a concerted system effort to promote the benefits of participation in the EAP could produce a better result.</p>
<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<p>A bill that requires greater coordination between the high schools, the community colleges and CSU EAP through a pilot project for 30 community colleges and their feeder high schools so that alignment of assessment and curriculum are rewarded by greater student eligibility for college-level courses immediately following high school.</p> <p>Coordinated Intersegmental efforts would provide outreach opportunities to promote college access and enhance student preparation, resulting in enhanced student success.</p>
<b>Statute</b>	Education Code Sections 60640, 60641, 60643, 78213
<b>Support and/or Sponsor</b>	California Community Colleges Matriculation Professionals Association Community College Student Services Council