

CHAPTER 308

EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

HOUSE BILL 00-1464

BY REPRESENTATIVES Allen, Lawrence, Lee, Stengel, and Young;
also SENATORS Owen, Andrews, Arnold, Lacy, Tebedo, and Teck.

AN ACT

CONCERNING STUDENTS ADMITTED TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Part 1 of article 1 of title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

23-1-113.3. Commission directive - basic skills courses. (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2000; THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT AND THE GOVERNING BOARDS SHALL IMPLEMENT STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES WHEREBY BASIC SKILLS COURSES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-1-113 (4) (c), MAY BE OFFERED BY STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(2) (a) ADAMS STATE COLLEGE, MESA STATE COLLEGE, ANY LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE GOVERNED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION MAY OFFER AND RECEIVE COURSE-REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS FROM THE STATE FOR BASIC SKILLS COURSES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-1-113 (4) (c).

(b) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION, ANY STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION NOT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS PROHIBITED FROM OFFERING A BASIC SKILLS COURSE, UNLESS THE COURSE IS OFFERED BY CONTRACT THROUGH ANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).

(c) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER ARE PROHIBITED FROM OFFERING BASIC SKILLS COURSES EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH CONTRACT WITH AN INSTITUTION SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

SUBSECTION (2).

(3) THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION, LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES, ADAMS STATE COLLEGE, AND MESA STATE COLLEGE SHALL:

(a) TRACK ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE BASIC SKILLS COURSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-113 (1) (b) (I) (B) IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THOSE STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION;

(b) COMPILE DATA REGARDING STUDENT PERFORMANCE THAT DESCRIBES WITH REGARD TO STUDENTS WHO TAKE BASIC SKILLS COURSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-113 (1) (b) (I) (B):

(I) THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM WHICH SAID STUDENTS GRADUATED;

(II) THE NUMBER OF SAID STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT;
AND

(III) THE BASIC SKILLS FOR WHICH SAID STUDENTS REQUIRE REMEDIATION; AND

(c) REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSION THE DATA COMPILED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3).

(4) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL TRANSMIT ANNUALLY TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AN ANALYSIS OF THE DATA:

(I) REGARDING STUDENTS WHO TAKE BASIC SKILLS COURSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-113 (1) (b) (I) (B); AND

(II) REGARDING THE COSTS OF PROVIDING BASIC SKILLS COURSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-113 (1) (b) (I) (B) AND WHETHER STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE SAID BASIC SKILLS COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION.

(b) THE COMMISSION SHALL DISSEMINATE THE ANALYSIS TO EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TO PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS WITHIN EACH DISTRICT.

(5) ANY STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION NOT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION OFFERING A BASIC SKILLS COURSE ON A CASH-FUNDED BASIS SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSION THE SAME DATA THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE COMPILED AND REPORTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b) OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

(6) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE" SHALL INCLUDE AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, NORTHEASTERN JUNIOR COLLEGE, AND COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

SECTION 2. 23-1-113 (1) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

23-1-113. Commission directive - admission standards for baccalaureate and graduate institutions of higher education. (1) (b) (I) (A) The standards established for first-time admitted freshman students shall use a combination of high school academic performance indicators and national assessment test scores for eligibility criteria. The criteria established and the specified performance levels shall be consistent with the role and mission established for each state-supported institution of higher education.

(B) In lieu of the established statewide criteria, additional criteria may be used for up to twenty percent of the admitted freshmen, except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section. BEGINNING WITH THE FALL SEMESTER 2001, EACH GOVERNING BOARD SHALL ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT ENSURE EACH MATRICULATED FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN SHALL TAKE BASIC SKILLS PLACEMENT OR ASSESSMENT TESTS IN ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS. SUCH TESTS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE INSTITUTION SUCH FRESHMAN ATTENDS, SHALL MEET THE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-113.3 (1), AND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY SUCH INSTITUTION. STUDENTS IDENTIFIED BY INSTITUTIONS AS NEEDING BASIC SKILLS REMEDIAL COURSE WORK SHALL TAKE APPROPRIATE COURSE WORK NO LATER THAN THE END OF THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR. THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNING BOARDS, SHALL ENSURE THE COMPARABILITY OF THESE PLACEMENT OR ASSESSMENT TESTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONSISTENT REPORTING DATA AS SUCH DATA ARE REQUIRED BY SECTION 23-1-113.3 (4). THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNING BOARDS, SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH STUDENT IDENTIFIED AS NEEDING BASIC SKILLS REMEDIAL COURSE WORK IS PROVIDED WITH WRITTEN NOTIFICATION IDENTIFYING WHICH STATE INSTITUTIONS OFFER SUCH BASIC SKILLS COURSES AND THE APPROXIMATE COST AND RELATIVE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH COURSES, INCLUDING ANY ELECTRONIC ON-LINE COURSES.

(C) Students who meet the minimum criteria for admission shall not be guaranteed admission to the institution to which they have applied, but they shall be eligible for consideration.

(II) For purposes of this paragraph (b):

(A) "Academic performance indicators" may include, but shall not be limited to, grade point average, class rank, and content standard performance level assessments.

(A.3) "ACADEMIC SKILLS COURSES" MEANS COURSES THAT TEACH THE BASIC ACADEMIC SKILLS NECESSARY TO SUCCEED AT A POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION.

(A.7) "BASIC SKILLS COURSES" MEANS COURSES THAT ARE PREREQUISITES TO THE LEVEL OF WORK EXPECTED AT A POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION AND INCLUDE ACADEMIC SKILLS COURSES AND PREPARATORY COURSES.

(B) "National assessment test scores" may include, but shall not be limited to, ACT test scores and SAT test scores.

(B.5) "PREPARATORY COURSES" MEANS COURSES DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS WHO

DEMONSTRATE A DEFICIENT SKILL LEVEL IN THE GENERAL COMPETENCIES NECESSARY TO SUCCEED IN A STANDARD POSTSECONDARY CURRICULUM AND SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

(I) READING COURSES THAT FOCUS ON NONTECHNICAL VOCABULARY, WORD IDENTIFICATION, AND READING OF EVERYDAY MATERIAL;

(II) WRITING COURSES THAT FOCUS PRIMARILY ON GRAMMAR, USAGE, PUNCTUATION, AND EFFECTIVE SENTENCES AND PARAGRAPHS; AND

(III) MATHEMATICS COURSES PRIMARILY COVERING CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: June 1, 2000