



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**Assembly Higher Education Committee
October 23, 2014
Assembly Bill No. 2803**

Requires Independent Colleges Report Certain Consumer Information on Their Websites;
Requires Information on Remedial Instruction to be Provided by Public and Independent
Colleges; Directs How Remedial Education is Delivered at Public and Certain Independent
Colleges

The state colleges and universities oppose Section 2.a.(18) of this bill. The state colleges and universities already provide extensive information regarding remedial education and other information regarding their students in the institutional profiles mandated under P.L. 1994, c. 48, NJSA 18A:3B-35. This law states,

“Each public institution of higher education shall prepare and make available to the public an annual report on the condition of the institution which shall include, but need not be limited to a profile of the student body including graduation rates, SAT or other test scores, the percentage of New Jersey residents in the student body, the number of scholarship students and the number of Educational Opportunity Fund students in attendance; a profile of the faculty including the ratio of full to part-time faculty members, and major research and public service activities; a profile of the trustees or governors as applicable; and, a profile of the institution, including degree and certificate programs, status of accreditation, major capital projects, any new collaborative undertakings or partnerships, any new programs or initiatives designed to respond to specific State needs, an accounting of demonstrable efficiency and quality improvements, and any other information which the commission and the institution deem appropriate. The form and general content of the report shall be established by the Commission on Higher Education.”

Copies of the colleges' 2013 reports can be accessed at
<http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/IP/IP2013/index.shtml>

We support including the independent colleges and universities in the New Jersey College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act.

The state colleges and universities oppose Section 3 of the bill. Remedial education is a complicated issue that cannot be solved through legislation. Our institutions work hard to address the individual needs of their students through a variety of means to ensure they are able to do college-level work. For example:

Montclair State University

The University encourages students to complete developmental reading prior to enrollment at the university, and encourages enrollment in summer and winter courses at the university or at a community college.

www.njascu.org

*The College of New Jersey
Kean University
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey*

*Rowan University
Thomas Edison State College
William Paterson University*

Ramapo College

The college provides developmental courses in math, and writing and reading. These are for-credit courses. Ramapo also offers tutoring, but this service is considered “student support” rather than developmental or remedial.

Richard Stockton College

Stockton offers developmental courses in quantitative reasoning, college readings, and college writing. These courses are for college credit, and they count toward the 128-credit degree requirement. They are part of the college’s first-year studies program and fulfill requirements in that program.

William Paterson University

In 2011, William Paterson University implemented a Summer Foundations Program, offering students workshops and classes to fulfill basic skills needed during the summer prior to their matriculation. Fulfilling these requirements allows students to start graduation-credit courses as first semester freshmen. This program is offered at no cost to the students. In three years, this program has reduced the percentage of students requiring a basic skills course from 66% to 25%.

Finally, as a matter of policy, this provision contradicts the provision of the Higher Education Restructuring Law of 1994 that gives authority to our boards of trustees over academic programming (NJSA 18A:3B-6).

NJASCU
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