



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

150 West State Street, Trenton NJ 08608

Phone (609) 989-1100

**Assembly Education Committee
January 7, 2016
Assembly Bill No. 1849**

Assembly Bill 1849, which would prohibit the State Board of Education from limiting the number of certain two-year college credits that may be applied towards meeting teacher certification requirements, does not address the major issues which facilitate a student's transfer from a two-year to a four-year institution.

For those students in a professional education major, the challenges to "seamless transition" include

- 1) the importance of beginning one's major in the first two years of study;
- 2) the parity regarding courses in the professional education sequence;
- 3) the tension between introducing students early to the teaching profession, mastering one's content major, and developing a well-rounded student;
- 4) the need to fulfill the general education requirement at a two-year institution and ensure that this coursework (30/45 credits) aligns with the general education requirement at the transferring student's four-year institution (60 credits), and
- 5) the need to ensure that accreditation requirements are being met.

In order to examine and address these issues, NJDOE, the New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Community Colleges have initiated a pilot program to explore alternatives the 6-credit limit. Four community college and four-year university pairs are in the pilot. The goal of this work is to advise future changes in code around the six-credit limit. The pilot is currently in progress. Peter Shulman, Assistant Commissioner at NJDOE, is involved in this project.

In addition, the revised NJDOE Code for Teacher Preparation requires all programs to be accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). This includes all Certification of Eligibility with Advanced Standing and Certificate of Eligibility programs. If community colleges offer full education programs, they will have to be CAEP accredited. It is critical to understand what this involves, including the cost to the two-year institution.

For these reasons, the state colleges and universities oppose this bill. Removing the 6 credit cap without the results of the pilot may be harmful to those students the bill is intending to help, because students who seek to transfer from a two-year to a four-year institution might have to repeat courses to comply with NJDOE (nationally accredited) requirements for certification. For that reason, we respectfully request that this bill be held until the results of the pilot program are made available.

www.njascu.org

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

*New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rowan University*

*Stockton University
Thomas Edison State University
William Paterson University*