ACCELERATED LEARNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Charge: "examine methods to encourage and enable students to obtain college credits while still in high school." SB 222

The committee is emphasizing alignment of funding, assessments, and procedures between high schools and post-secondary institutions of higher education to encourage efficiencies and to make post-secondary education more affordable for families. Their final report to the interim legislative committees on education is due Oct 1, 2014 and the committee sunsets with the beginning of the 2015 legislative session.

Committee Members: Senator Mark Hass, Senator Bruce Starr, Representative Lew Frederick, Representative John Huffman, Nori Juba, Peyton Chapman, Nancy Golden (Chair)

Big Idea Guiding the Accelerated Learning Committee's Work

In order to meet the Oregon 40-40-20 goal, students within Oregon's public education system are able to earn up to nine college credits at no cost while still in high school to help them seamlessly transition from K-12 to postsecondary options without incurring debt.

This effort involves high schools, postsecondary institutions, and non-profits working together to ensure equitable access to all college credit options, including, but not limited to dual credit, AP, and IB for historically underserved and under-informed students and to promote collaboration across sectors to resolve geographic disparities, as well as funding, record-keeping, and credentialing issues.

Program Parameter Point Analysis

In December, the committee used a point analysis exercise to score program parameters that will be used to help guide fiscal modeling and eventual recommendations. Those parameters listed below will be further vetted with other work groups including Higher Education Coordinating Council's Pay It Forward workgroup, COSA's Grades 11-14 workgroup, and Higher Education Coordinating Council's Financial Aid workgroup. The Accelerated Learning Committee will continue to coordinate all ideas for improving student access to college credits while still in high school.

Program Parameters Receiving the Highest Ratings	
Grade-level focus	Focus on 11th and 12th graders with up to two years of post-secondary education; those under 16 can qualify with instructor approval
Student eligibility requirements	Instructor approval or all students accepted
Eligible colleges	All public and private colleges as well as private career schools
Transferability of credit	Any in-state college
Content alignment/quality assurance	Must be modeled on standards from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) but not accredited by NACEP
High school instructor qualifications	Administrator approval or demonstrated proficiency (e.g. SB 290 educator effectiveness)
Minimum number of credits students expected to earn	Nine (9) credits (aligned with achievement compacts)