

## **Wyoming P-16 Council Supports Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Legislation**

by Kelley Pelissier, Wyoming P-16 Education Council Executive Director

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During the recently adjourned 2009 Budget Session of the Wyoming Legislature, the Council took an active role in supporting legislation relating to dual and concurrent enrollment. Senate File 39 Post Secondary Options Program was sponsored by the Joint Education Committee and resulted from a study commissioned by the Community College Planning Task Force. Study authors, former State Senator Rae Lynn Job and education consultant Sue Riske, found that there are different arrangements for operating dual and concurrent enrollment programs throughout the state, creating access and equity issues. The Community College Planning Task Force identified dual and concurrent enrollment programs as a statewide interest in its strategic planning process and listed expanding concurrent enrollment by encouraging participation among high school students ready for college-level work as an action step.

The P-16 Council support for SF 39 grew out of its interest in facilitating student transition from high school to college, and in getting more students to move onto some sort of post-secondary education.

On the last day of the 20-day session, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House signed it as Senate Enrolled Act 52 (out of 54), and the Governor signed it into law on March 9, a month after it was introduced in the Senate.

Below are the provisions of the new law, which is in effect now.

- Requires an agreement between a school district board of trustees and a community college or the University of Wyoming to provide a post secondary education enrollment options program.
- Effective for the 2011-2012 school year, requires these agreements to comply with minimum educational standards defined by the community college commission in consultation with the department of education, community colleges and the University of Wyoming.
- Requires institutions participating in a post secondary education enrollment options program agreement, including BOCES, to file a report with the community college commission on student participation and completion, and on revenues and expenditures. This becomes effective September 1, 2012, and the reporting parameters will be based upon policy and guidelines developed through statewide discussions.
- Requires the community college commission to conduct discussions and develop consensus on state seamless K-12 and post secondary education programs, and the policies and guidelines referenced in this law.
- Requires the community college commission to report to the joint education interim committee on or before January 11, 2011, on policy recommendations determined through a statewide dialogue on issues outlined in the law, including eligibility requirements, quality control of courses offered, communication mechanisms with students and parents, and data reporting requirements, and others.

**Related Links:**

Senate Enrolled Act 52: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2010/billindex//BillCrossRef.aspx?type=SF>; scroll down to SF 39

Job/Riske Report, *A Snapshot of Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Programs in Wyoming High Schools and Community Colleges* - <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/interim/college/Dual-Concurrent%20Enrollment%20JEC%20Report%20v5%20011410.pdf>

Wyoming Community College Commission Statewide Strategic Plan - <http://communitycolleges.wy.edu/business/Reports/StrategicPlanFinalJan2010.pdf>