

Docket Item: 9.2 – Secretary of State’s December 2022 HECC and Community College Audit implementation update

Summary:

In December 2022, the Secretary of State’s Audits Division published a [performance audit](#), “Higher Education Coordinating Commission: Oregon Must Improve Community College Performance, Student Support, and Sustainability Amid Persistent Enrollment Declines.” The audit includes six recommendations, to which the agency responded with a level of agreement and commitment for action in response to the recommendations. At the Commission’s request, staff have prepared a progress report of the actions planned to complete these commitments and the status of each action taken to date. All commitments are planned to be complete within one year of the report’s initial release.

Recommendation	HECC Response	HECC Commitment	Action to Date
1. Support HECC and colleges with needed authority, staff, and funding	Role of local Boards and HECC’s statutory authority limit reporting	N/A	N/A
2a. Publish student success metrics	HECC plans to publish what is currently calculated Interactive publishing requires resources	Publish snapshot data Publish CCDM early momentum measures	Identify & prepare metrics: <i>Underway</i> Engage colleges, <i>Underway</i> Publish: <i>Not begun</i>
2b. Establish student success metrics	Many agreed-upon metrics currently exist HECC is not reporting authority for all activities or entities	Review metrics with colleges Engage OCCA	Engage colleges: <i>Underway</i> Engage OCCA: <i>Not begun</i> Update metrics as needed: <i>Not begun</i>

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2c. Benchmark outcomes and early indicators; create early indicator KPMs	HECC plans to publish benchmarks on existing metrics Additional resources needed to expand	Publish college and national VFA results	Identify metrics: <i>Complete</i> Engage colleges: <i>Not begun</i> Publish: <i>Not begun</i>
2d. Consolidate data collections	Streamline current HECC requests if possible Clarify collections that are from HECC	Coordinate internally Clarify with colleges	Improve internal alignment: <i>Underway</i> Clarify sources of requests: <i>Complete</i> Discuss Modernization: <i>Not begun</i>
2e. Identify staffing needs and make legislative request	Existing staff struggle to meet current expectations Expanded funding for data analysis would support both HECC & colleges	Support related ARB POP Inventory agency and college needs	Identify desired products and staffing needs: <i>Not begun</i> Obtain college input: <i>Not begun</i>
3. If performance-based funding is adopted, develop plan to analyze results	OAR approval of newly revised formula is anticipated this spring	Complete funding review Develop analysis plan	Adopt OAR : <i>Underway</i> Draft plan; schedule review: <i>Underway</i>
4. Evaluate student support programs, academic advising	HECC plans evaluation of future student-focused wrap-around grants	Pilot evaluation that could scale up with additional investment	Identify grants for review: <i>Not begun</i> Conduct pilot evaluation: <i>Not begun</i>

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5. Continue to improve Oregon's financial aid efforts	HECC analyzes and reports on the return of financial aid investments Current POPs include expanded aid	Support POPs in ARB Advocate for passage of POPs in GRB	Leading POPs expand grants: <i>Complete</i> Analyze value of investment with evaluations: <i>Complete</i>
6. Report on community college fiscal sustainability	Role of local Boards and HECC's statutory authority limit reporting	Explore legislative options related to statutory authority	Identify potential options: <i>Not begun</i> Engage colleges: <i>Not begun</i>

Staff Recommendation:

Informational purposes only.