

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY

Topic: 5.a—Update: Higher Education Coordinating Commission strategic plan

Date:

Staff/Office:

Action Requested: **Informational Only** **Adoption** **Adoption/Consent**
Agenda

ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

2015-2020 strategic plan of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

BACKGROUND:

The HECC’s statutory responsibilities include the adoption of a strategic plan for Oregon higher education (ORS 351.735). The HECC’s first strategic plan was adopted by the Commission in February, 2014, and focused primarily on clarifying the HECC’s new role in Oregon’s shifting higher education governance landscape and establishing high-priority, 2014-15 action steps for the Commission. The HECC has proposed that its next strategic plan should take a longer-term perspective, looking ahead to 2020 and identifying the primary areas of focus for Oregon higher education generally and for the HECC specifically.

The Commission has requested that HECC staff engage other boards, commissions, and stakeholders in providing feedback on the strategic plan as it develops. Especially because the K-12 to college connection is such a high priority for the HECC, it is particularly interested in receiving ideas and responses from the State Board of Education and other organizations focused on K-12 education in Oregon.

A draft outline of the HECC’s strategic plan is attached. At the HECC’s October 8th meeting, Commissioners again placed significant emphasis on the need to improve the high school to college transition, including through better alignment of standards and assessments.

POLICY QUESTIONS:

The current draft of the HECC’s strategic plan emphasizes the importance of engaging Oregon higher education institutions in the work to improve outcomes for K-12 students. In addition to any general feedback the State Board might wish to provide, the Commission is interested in hearing specifically about the following:

- How can higher education partners optimally support K-12 education?
- Is it appropriate for the HECC’s strategic plan to emphasize the need for better alignment of high school standards, assessments, and graduation requirements with the expectations of colleges? If yes, how does the State Board of Education envision this work being carried out?
- What does the State Board of Education believe are the highest-priority areas of shared work for it and the HECC?