

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

October 12, 2022

TOPIC: Board Policy 9-40, CCCS Designated Statewide Service Area

PRESENTED BY:

Angela Gramse, General Counsel

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RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Transform the student experience; Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships; Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

EXPLANATION:

C.R.S. §23-1-109(2) requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to define the geographic and programmatic service areas for the Colorado public institutions of higher education. In 2021, the general assembly enacted legislation that directed CCHE to convene a task force charged with reviewing the role and mission and service areas of each institution of higher education in Colorado.

The committee was charged with making recommendations to CCHE and the education committee's as to whether it was beneficial to continue operating within the current structure of geographically defined service areas for the two-year mission institutions. The group considered whether the availability of and access to postsecondary credential programs is sufficient throughout the State without undue overlap with the intent to ensure the most efficient use of state resources. Another factor that was relevant to their analysis was to support the state's postsecondary access and attainment goals.

The task force's recommendation was that while service areas served a great purpose when they were originally developed, service areas may not be needed in today's higher education environment. In addition, the taskforce recommended that CDHE staff and CCHE members review and revise the CCHE service area policy. Specifically, the taskforce urged CDHE and CCHE to consider removing the geographic boundary components of the CCHE service area policy.

In response to these recommendations, On July 29, 2022, CCHE amended its policy on Service Areas by eliminating the designated geographical service boundaries for the two-year mission institutions and delegated decision-making authority to the institutional governing Boards to determine how their institutions would operate within their statutory role and mission.

CCCS is recommending to this Board to adopt a state-wide designated service area for the thirteen colleges it governs, to allow better access and opportunities for all its students, including Concurrent Enrollment. This will also assist in CCCS' focus on workforce demands, all the while continuing to make the colleges local community needs their top-priority in an innovative, equitable, and collaborative manner.

Further, this policy will delegate authority to the System Chancellor to formalize procedures as necessary.

The attached BP 9-40 reflects the substantive as well as non-substantive, editorial or conforming changes. A redline version showing the details of all revisions is available upon request.

RECOMMENDATION:

CCCS Staff recommends the Board approve the revisions made to BP 9-40.

ATTACHMENT(S):
BP 9-40 Final