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VIA E-MAIL

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Academic Senate Presidents

FROM: Laura L. Hope
Executive Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Support

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President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

SUBJECT: AB 705 IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMELINE

On October 13th, Governor Brown signed AB 705, a bill that represents a significant shift in assessment and placement practices for the California community colleges. The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2018 and includes the following changes:

The Board of Governors, not the Chancellor's Office, now has the responsibility to develop and publish a list of approved assessment instruments. Once this list is published, colleges will be required to only use instruments on the approved list.

Assessment still requires the use of multiple measures, but colleges must include the use of high school transcript data (overall GPA, courses taken, or course grades) as a primary component to maximize the accuracy of student placement and increase the likelihood that students are placed into transfer-level courses in math and English. The Chancellor's Office is currently working on data sharing agreements to provide high school data to the colleges. When that information is not available, the bill allows for the use of self-reported high school transcript information.

Placement recommendations must assure that students have optimized opportunities to complete transfer level math and English within one year and may not be placed into remedial prerequisite courses unless they are highly unlikely to succeed without them.

English as a Second Language students must now be placed using multiple measures and must be able to complete their language sequences within three years.

AB 705 Implementation and Timeline

December 6, 2017

Page 2

In order to address these changes thoughtfully, the Chancellor's Office has assembled a team who will provide guidance for implementation. The team will endeavor to provide guidance about the language of the legislation, propose implementation strategies, and suggest a timeline for implementation. The guidance will then be submitted to the California Community College Curriculum Committee (5C) for review and recommendation to the Chancellor's Office. Once those efforts are complete, the Chancellor's Office and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges will work together to establish support for implementation. Until then, the Chancellor's Offices and the Academic Senate urges faculty, staff, and administrators to initiate or continue local discussions about curriculum that aligns with the bill, maximizes students' ability to achieve transfer or college readiness within one year, and incorporates high school transcript data into the assessment process. For English as a Second Language learners, a subcommittee of the implementation team will likely need to be established to provide recommendations for assessment measures that will serve students and faculty.

Although making the local policy and curricular changes to implement AB 705 will require focused effort for the next year or so, these changes represent an opportunity to close achievement gaps and explore new strategies to move students more swiftly toward their goals as part of a guided pathways framework. Additional guidance will be provided in early spring to support local practices and support student success.

The attached timeline provides a framework for colleges to plan their local efforts and strive toward compliance with AB 705, which is expected no later than fall of 2019. In the New Year, information on AB 705 implementation will be found at www.assessment.cccco.edu. This site will contain updated information, summary notes from the implementation team, and information about professional learning.