

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
June 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of 2008-09 College Reach-Out Program Funding Recommendations

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.34, Florida Statutes and 2008 General Appropriations Act, Item # 94

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The College Reach-Out Program (CROP) was established in 1983 by the Florida Legislature to motivate and prepare students (grades 6–12) from low-income educationally disadvantaged backgrounds towards pursuing and successfully completing postsecondary education. Participants are students who otherwise would be unlikely to seek admission to a postsecondary institution without special support and recruitment efforts. Funds are appropriated by the Legislature to the Department of Education and allocated through a competitive process to institutions based upon previous measurable outcomes and proposals designed to implement effective intervention strategies.

Chapter 1007.34 (9), F.S., stipulates that the CROP Advisory Council review the proposals and recommend to the State Board of Education an order of priority for funding the proposals. The CROP Advisory Council met on May 22, 2008, to review the 2008-09 CROP applications and recommend funding levels for each project. The funding recommendations are included in the Prioritized Funding List, which is being presented for State Board approval.

Proposed services from the institutions include: summer academic educational programs, after school mentoring and tutoring, study skills strategy workshops, summer residential programs, one-on-one assistance with students completing college applications including financial aid forms, classes to prepare for the SAT and ACT, college visits, and funding to allow students to attend and participate in competitive academic brain bowls and educational cultural events throughout the state.

CROP currently serves approximately 7,560 students in ten state universities, twenty-five community colleges, and four independent postsecondary institutions. Approximately 72% of these students are African-American, 12% are Hispanic, 13% are White, 1% is Asian, less than 1% is American Indian, and approximately 2% are in the “Other” category. The 2008-09 state appropriation for CROP is \$2,915,319, and participating postsecondary institutions are required to match the state appropriation with cash and in-kind services.

Supporting Documentation Included: 2008-09 CROP Prioritized Funding List
Individual grant proposals available upon request.

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