

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 17, 2003

SUBJECT: Study on Acceleration Mechanisms

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval of the Department of Education's plan for reviewing current acceleration mechanisms and preparing recommendations for future increases and enhancements of acceleration mechanisms.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

HB 1739, amending Section 1007.27, Florida Statutes - Articulated acceleration mechanisms.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Study on Acceleration Mechanisms. House Bill 1739 mandated that the State Board of Education conduct a review of the extent to which acceleration mechanisms are currently utilized by school districts and public postsecondary institutions. The report must include "a summary of ongoing activities and a plan to increase and enhance the use of acceleration as a way to shorten the length of time as well as the funding required for a student, including a student with a documented disability, to obtain a postsecondary degree."

The report must address the following issues relating to acceleration mechanisms: student advising; access to and availability of accelerated courses; grading practices (including course weighting); application of accelerated credit to general education requirements; funding policies; acceleration as a way to meet class size reduction needs; and the feasibility of joint course offerings. The Department of Education has developed a preliminary list of key pieces of information that must be collected within each issue area.

A task force on Acceleration Policies will be convened to define further the pieces of data that must be collected to complete the review and justify the resulting recommendations.

Many of the elements of the required report are aligned with the Board's goal of Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access — and Strategic Imperative #5: Setting and Aligning Academic Standards at Every Level of the K-20 Education System.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Study on Acceleration Mechanisms: Timeline and Task Force Membership

Facilitators/Presenters:

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