

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
January 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.05282, College Reach-Out Program

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02(2)(n) and 1007.34, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The College Reach-Out Program (CROP) is a statewide program created in 1983 by the Florida Legislature under Section 1007.34, Florida Statutes. The primary objective of CROP is to recruit low-income, educationally disadvantaged students in grades 6-12, and motivate and prepare them to attend college and complete their postsecondary education.

According to Section 1007.34(3), Florida Statutes, to participate in the College Reach-Out Program, a postsecondary educational institution may submit a proposal to the Department of Education. Program funds are appropriated by the Legislature to the Department of Education and allocated through a competitive process.

An estimated 190,000 students have been served by CROP since the program was initiated. In 2017-2018, a total of 18 postsecondary educational institutions implemented program services to approximately 2,424 students in 187 schools within 29 counties throughout the state.

The proposed rule revises the eligibility criteria for a student to participate in the College Reach-Out Program. The revised academic criteria expands consideration of a student's course grade in any of the four core subject areas, and the review of a student's academic achievement on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) or the Algebra I End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment. The criteria related to grade retention, school suspension or expulsion, truancy, and a student's participation in a Dropout Prevention Program are removed. The revised economic criteria updates language to align with the eligibility descriptions under the federal Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. §1758(b)(1)(A)]. It also provides consideration of the current status of a student's family receiving public assistance. The outdated terminology used to describe a student as an "orphan or ward of the court" will be removed and replaced with terminology that describes such student as one who is "currently placed, or during the previous fiscal year was placed, in foster care." The effect of these changes will be to include updated and relevant criteria, therefore increasing the number of students eligible to participate in the program.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-6.05282, F.A.C.

Facilitator/Presenter: Melissa Ramsey, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Public Schools