



June 2016

To: Community and Technical College Administrators and Staff

Now that the first full cohort of high school students eligible to use the high school Smarter Balanced assessment score for placement (the class of 2016, last year's juniors) is starting to enroll in our colleges for fall 2016, we'd like to remind you of some key elements of the statewide placement policy agreement: (For the specific detailed language of the placement agreement, see <http://www.sbctc.edu/about/agency/initiatives-projects/bridge-to-college.aspx>).

1. **Statewide policy:** For the period of the existing provisional agreement (2016-2018), the language of the agreement applies to **all** community and technical colleges.
2. **Primary placement for high school students:** If a student has the appropriate Smarter Balanced score and wants to enroll in a course specified by the agreement, the placement is automatic; students should not be required to take a placement test first. However, if students wish to enroll in a course different from what the agreement allows, they may be required to provide additional transcript information or take a placement test.
3. **Running Start included:** Students may use the agreement for enrolling in Running Start classes as well as for classes after graduating from high school. The same terms apply in either situation.
4. **Bridge to College transition courses:** Students interested in enrolling who scored in the level two range on the Smarter Balanced high school assessment and who completed a Bridge to College course with a final grade of "B" or better are eligible for the same automatic placement terms as students who scored in the level 3 range. As noted above, local colleges may make these terms more favorable—for instance, allowing a "B-" instead of a "B"—but not less favorable (a "B+" instead of a "B").
5. **Local flexibility:** Local colleges can alter the terms of the agreement to make them more favorable for students but **not** less favorable. For example, the statewide agreement indicates that students may use their English Language Arts score for placement any time during their first year after graduation but only in the fall quarter for math. Colleges may extend the time period for math to match English but may not reduce the English time period to match math. Anything not specifically defined in the language of the agreement is left up to individual colleges to determine.
6. **Local implementation:** Local colleges handle the admissions and placement process, including honoring this placement agreement, in different ways. Colleges may ask students provide copies of their Smarter Balanced Score Report or may contact high schools to gather the information. We have communicated to students and to high school staff that it is the student's responsibility to follow whatever procedure the college has defined to submit valid score information for placement.

For anyone interested, I've set aside 3 different hours for separate virtual Q & A sessions about the implementation of the agreement: **June 22 2-3 pm; June 23, 4-5 pm; or June 24, 11 am-noon**

[Here's the link to the Q&A session](#)

In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions—thanks!

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