



SENATE BILL 561: Career and College Ready Graduates

This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - Community Colleges	Date:	August 18, 2015
Introduced by:	Sens. Barefoot, Rucho	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw and James Ritter
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition S561-CSTW		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: SB 561 would require the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) to develop a program providing community college remediation to high school seniors beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for SB 561 would make the following changes:

- *Mandatory remedial courses required as part of this PCS would be optional for students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study to receive high school diplomas, unless a parent specifically requested participation through the individualized education program (IEP) process.*
- *Remove requirements related to direct instruction remedial modules, and instead require the SBCC to approve curriculum used by high schools.*
- *Remove requirements on policies from partner community colleges, and instead require oversight and training by the SBCC.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for SB 561 would require the SBCC, in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE), to develop a program of community college developmental courses in (1) mathematics and (2) reading and English in the high school senior year through cooperation with community college partners. Students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study would be allowed to opt out of the program for mandatory remedial courses as provided in this PCS, or participate upon specific parent request through the individualized education program (IEP) process. The program would be required to include:

- (1) Measures established by the SBCC to determine student readiness and preparation for college coursework by using ACT scores, student grade point averages, or other measures used by the SBCC to determine college readiness for entering students.
- (2) Changes in curriculum, policy, and rules needed by the SBCC and SBE to make remedial courses mandatory for students who do not meet readiness indicators by their junior year. The changes would be required to include flexibility for students to fulfill senior mathematics and English graduation requirements through enrollment in mandatory remedial courses or to enroll in those courses as electives.
- (3) Use of the curriculum approved by the SBCC, in cooperation with the SBE, by high schools.
- (4) Determinations by the SBCC on the appropriate measures of successful completion of the remedial courses and length of time following high school graduation in which a student who successfully completed remediation would not be required to enroll in developmental courses at a North Carolina community college.
- (5) Delivery of college remediation instruction by high schools consistent with policies established by the SBCC and SBE, including the following:

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- a. High school faculty teaching courses must successfully complete SBCC established training requirements.
- b. Oversight would be provided by the NC Community College System to ensure appropriate instructional delivery of remedial courses.

The program would be implemented beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The SBCC and SBE would report on statewide implementation progress to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no later than January 15, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS for SB 561 would become effective when it becomes law.