

Commissioner's Update

April 5, 2010

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have one item for you in this update.

Connecticut students being offered early admission to college

Some Connecticut high school students may qualify for early enrollment in college, perhaps as soon as the end of 10th-grade, under a new program the state is joining.

Connecticut and seven other states are working with the [National Center on Education and the Economy](#) (NCEE) to establish a Board Examinations System — a way for high school students to enroll in college early, and reduce the need for remedial courses once students enter higher education.

Ten to 20 schools in each participating state will pilot the early enrollment system beginning in the 2011-12 school year. States will approve up to five exams, called Board Examination programs, and invite high schools to pilot one or more of the programs. The Board Examination programs include ACT's QualityCore, the Cambridge International Examination's International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and their AICE program, the College Board's Advanced Placement program, the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, and Pearson/Edexcel's IGCSE and A-level programs. The links below connect to PowerPoint presentations giving details of these programs.

Students who volunteer for the program will be tested at the end of the year. Students who pass can enroll in a college the next fall as a full-time student or remain in high school and take courses to prepare them for entrance into a selective college. Students who do not pass on the first try will be offered special instruction to help on their next attempt.

The other states participating in the program are Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

PowerPoint presentations on Board Examination Programs

- [ACT - Quality Core Board Exam Providers Meeting](#)
- [National Center for Education and the Economy\(NCEE\) - Meeting of Board Providers](#)
- [NCEE State Board Examination Consortium](#)
- [NCEE The Advanced Placement Program - College Board](#) [PDF]
- [Pearson/Edexcel Qualifications for New England](#)
- [The Cambridge International Continuum](#)

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education