

Preparing to Implement Workforce Pell and Administrative Clean-up

Establishes Enhanced Wage Data for Workforce Pell, Provides Access to Unit-level Wage Data, Establishes a Statewide Postsecondary ROI Indicator, and Aligns Department Reporting

1. Enhanced and Unit-level Wage Data

The Issue: Currently, the Iowa Department of Education does not have access to the wage data necessary for implementation and compliance with the **new federal Workforce Pell program**, as authorized under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in July 2025.

The Solution: This legislation establishes **enhanced wage data** needed for Iowa students and programs to access Workforce Pell, including adding occupation, hours worked, and location data elements. It also expands access to **unit-level wage data** collected by Iowa Workforce Development to be used for state and federally mandated reporting, including credit and noncredit program outcomes reporting conducted by the Department and the federal Workforce Pell program.

- Note: The Iowa Department of Education currently has access to all state's unit-level wage data, with the exception of Iowa's data.

Why It Matters: Iowa needs enhanced wage data for Iowa students and programs to access Workforce Pell and to better understand the workforce outcomes associated with the state's academic programs. This bill also allows the Department to more effectively and efficiently produce and publish outcomes data, ensuring transparent reporting of program workforce outcomes.

2. Return on Investment (ROI) Indicator

The Issue: Per Department-proposed rules adopted beginning in the 2025-26 accreditation cycle, **community colleges are required to assess student ROI for all CTE programs** as a part of ongoing, required CTE program review. No other postsecondary programs across higher education institutions in the state are required to assess program student ROI, and no statewide ROI indicator exists.

The Solution: This legislation implements a **statewide student ROI indicator** with an aligned analysis and reporting framework for all public postsecondary education programs as a **condition of participation in state-funded scholarship and grant programs** administered by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

- Note: The **Board of Regents recently established an ROI indicator**, and the Department will work with them to develop a statewide ROI indicator for all public institutions of higher education in Iowa should this proposal be enacted.

Why It Matters: A statewide ROI framework provides transparent, comparable program-level outcomes data across Iowa's public higher education institutions for students, families, and decision-makers.

3. Department Reporting Efficiencies

The Issue: The Department is legislatively required to produce and publish numerous reports, which are mostly published as **separate documents throughout the year**.

The Solution: This legislation consolidates several reports into the annual Condition of Education Report. This proposal does not seek to eliminate any existing reporting requirement.

Why It Matters: This would make it easier for stakeholders to locate pertinent information, and create more transparent, efficient reporting processes within the Department.

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