



student success

POLICY ACTION AGENDA



**Trustees for
Student Success**



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ACCT's Policy Action Agenda is a guide for governing boards to support student success and completion. The Policy Action Agenda:

- Encourages governing boards to develop student success policies;
- Reaffirms a commitment to access and equity;
- Calls upon governing boards to take action.

DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

- More than 150 community college trustees, presidents, and experts from national organizations contributed to drafting the Policy Action Agenda at ACCT's 2011 Invitational Symposium on Student Success in Dallas, Texas, including representatives from the American Association of Community Colleges, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Center for American Progress, the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin, Completion by Design, EDUCAUSE, Excelencia in Education!, the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, the Kresge Foundation, MDRC, the National School Boards Association, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the State Higher Education Executive Officers.
- Over 300 participants provided input to the Policy Action Agenda at the Town Hall meeting held during ACCT's 42nd Annual Leadership Congress also in Dallas, Texas.
- An advisory committee refined and finalized the Policy Action Agenda in May 2012.

TOOLS FOR TRUSTEES

Visit ACCT's Trustees for Student Success website:

www.governance-institute.org

A trustee toolkit provides:

- An introductory video;
- Guiding questions on readiness, planning, implementation, and outcomes;
- Links to initiatives and organizations engaged in student success;
- An opportunity to post your policies and lessons learned.

TAKE ACTION!

Affirm the importance of student success for community colleges by adding the Policy Action Agenda to your next board meeting.

For more information, contact: **Narcisa A. Polonio, Ed.D. or Colleen Allen**

Email: narcisa_polonio@acct.org or Tel. 202-276-1983/202-558-8682

Association of Community College Trustees

1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20036



THE POLICY ACTION AGENDA

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Reaffirm the mission of the college and its commitment to ensure access, success, and equity for all students, while affirming that quality must undergird all credentials granted by the institution.
2. Ensure that the institutional strategic plan gives priority to student success and equity, and aligns the institutional budget with student success goals.
3. Request and endorse a completion agenda framework for your institution, including consistent and comparable definitions for completion and student success such as those included in the Voluntary Framework of Accountability, to ensure uniformity and quality.

PARTNERSHIPS

4. Strengthen partnerships with colleges, universities and PreK-12 systems, particularly in the areas of articulation, assessment, placement and college readiness.
5. Engage employers, workforce boards, and community organizations to ensure the value of associate degrees and certificates and their relevance to local and regional labor markets.

MEASUREMENTS AND METRICS

6. Commit to track all entering student cohorts for at least five years and examine cohort data to determine the effectiveness of developmental education and other programs.
7. Ensure that metrics for institutional performance and student success incorporate employment and wage data for college graduates.
8. Require that measures of student success be prominently featured in periodic institutional reports to the board.
9. Invest in building institutional capacity for data- and evidence-informed work, including development of data systems and institutional research.
10. Align board self-evaluation and president/CEO evaluation with defined student success measures.

BOARD PRIORITIES

11. Ensure that the institutional budget clearly reflects priority placed on improvement in student success and college completion.
12. Through Board policy and strategic direction, provide support for the CEO to lead courageous and transformational work focused on student success.
13. Establish regular opportunities for the board to engage in meaningful, data-informed discussions about priorities and progress on the college's student success agenda.
14. Invest in implementation of evidence-based educational pathways for students, regardless of their level of college readiness upon entry.
15. Upon recommendation by the CEO, adopt student success policies and support practices at scale, including practices that can lead to transformational change in college orientation, academic skills assessment, course placement, educational planning, early academic alert systems, and other evidence-based interventions.
16. Commit to ongoing professional development for the board.

Take Action!

**Incorporate the Student Success Policy Action
Agenda into your next board meeting.**

Go to www.governance-institute.org to:

- Print copies of the Policy Action Agenda for every member of your board.
- Share the Policy Action Agenda video with your board.
- Access the Student Success Trustee Toolkit and use the guiding questions during your meeting.
- Post your college's student success related policies online.
- Show & Tell: Download examples of board agendas, reports, documents, videos, etc.



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Student success starts here.