

Illinois Community College Board

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The Illinois Community College Board has statutory authority to “recognize” community colleges for their compliance with state statutes and standards. Based on a five-year cycle, ICCB staff conducts recognition evaluations to assure that colleges are in compliance with the standards. Standards identified for focused review during Fiscal Years 2016 – 2020 for College of Lake County, John Wood Community College, Lewis & Clark Community College, and Richland Community College include the following categories: Academic, Student Services/Academic Support, Finance/Facilities, and Institutional Research/Reporting. These same standards are used by each district in a self-evaluation that is submitted to ICCB prior to the staff evaluation.

During Fiscal Year 2020, John Wood Community College, Richland Community College, College of Lake County, and Lewis & Clark Community College underwent an in-depth recognition evaluation. The colleges submitted a thorough self-evaluation; ICCB staff conducted internal evaluations of all required college documents and a college finance site visit was conducted. This agenda item not only presents the staff recommendations for the colleges that completed the evaluation, but gives background on the recognition evaluation and approval process for the Board’s information.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the following motion be adopted:

The Illinois Community College Board hereby grants a status of “recognition continued” to the following districts:

- John Wood Community College, District 539
- Richland Community College, District 537
- College of Lake County, District 532
- Lewis & Clark Community College, District 536

BACKGROUND

Recognition is a statutory term describing the status of a district which meets instructional, administrative, financial, facility and equipment standards as established by the Illinois Community College Board (110 ILCS Section 805/2-12f and 805/2-15). Community colleges must be recognized to be eligible for state funding. Once a college district has been recognized by the ICCB, that recognition status is continued unless, action is taken by the Board to interrupt it. To determine a district's recognition status, the ICCB conducts periodic evaluations. The objectives of the recognition evaluation include 1) determination of a district's compliance with the Public Community College Act and ICCB Administrative Rules; 2) the provision of assistance to districts in achieving compliance with the Act and Rules; 3) the identification of issues which may be of concern to the community college system and the gathering of basic data about these issues; and 4) the identification of exemplary district practices/programs that can be shared with other districts. Based on a five-year cycle, ICCB staff conducts recognition evaluations to assure that districts are in compliance with selected standards. All districts are evaluated on a select number of standards during the same five-year cycle. ICCB staff makes an assessment on each individual standard and on a global basis considering all focused and non-focused standards. On individual standards districts are identified as either in compliance or not in compliance. Compliance recommendations require the college to take immediate action to adhere to a particular law or administrative rule, and advisory recommendations are suggestions by staff to improve upon a current process or practice. Advisory recommendations are not mandatory and do not affect a college's overall recognition status.

At the conclusion of the recognition review, the ICCB staff presents a report to the Board and the college to summarize the evaluation. Based on the report, the Board may take one of three types of action:

Recognition Continued – The district generally meets ICCB statutory laws and administrative rules. A district which has been granted a status of “recognition continued” is entitled to receive ICCB grants for which it is otherwise entitled and eligible.

Recognition Continued-with Conditions – The district does not meet ICCB standards. A district which has been assigned the status of “recognition continued-with conditions” is entitled to receive ICCB grants for which it is otherwise entitled and eligible, but it is given a specified time to resolve the conditions which led to the assignment of that status. A follow-up evaluation is scheduled no sooner than three nor longer than nine months after ICCB action on the assignment to determine the district's progress in resolving the conditions.

Recognition Interrupted – The district fails to take corrective action to resolve the conditions placed upon it under “recognition continued-with conditions” within a prescribed time period. A district which has been assigned a status of “recognition interrupted” may apply for recognition at such time as all requirements set forth by the ICCB have been satisfied. A district will have state funding suspended on a pro rata, per diem basis for the period of time for which such status is in effect.

Data deriving from ICCB's Centralized Data System will be shared about Illinois community college equity, enrollment, and outcome trends in Illinois and in comparison to other sectors. Student subgroups such as race/ethnicity will be included in the student population analysis. The publicly available Illinois Postsecondary Profiles platform will be briefly discussed to highlight continued efforts to ensure transparency in equity outcomes.