

DATE: November 16, 2006

SUBJECT: Status of the Tennessee P-16 Initiative

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The primary current student success initiative of the State P-16 Council is the Curricula Alignment Committee’s analysis of the match between high school mathematics course student learning expectations and ACT mathematics test national benchmarks. This initiative aims at recommending actions that result in a “seamless” 8th through first college-level mathematics course curricula. The purpose for the alignment is to increase student success in mathematics as a key influence on persistence to graduation.

To date, the P-16 Council’s Math Curricula Alignment Committee has completed analyses of all seven mainstream high school mathematics courses. This milestone has been reached by the Committee of high school and college math faculty, academic officers, curriculum specialists, and representatives from the State Department of Education, State Board of Education, the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. A Committee roster is attached.

The scope of the Committee’s charge:

- Recommend standards-based math curricula alignment and strategies for implementing to the State P-16 Council;
- Assess most needed professional development for math faculty recommend and strategies for implementing to the State P-16 Council; and
- Assess current high school math faculty pool, needs gap, and recommend strategies for achieving sufficiency to the State P-16 Council.

The Curricula Alignment Committee is working in concert with other Tennessee initiatives on standards reform, such as the High School Redesign Task Force and the Building Transitions from High School to Post-secondary Education project. The Committee’s deliberations also consider the objectives of Tennessee GEAR UP and the demonstration of GEAR UP early assessment modeling for wider applications.