

Agenda Item: I.C.

DATE: April 24, 2014

SUBJECT: 2014 SAILS Program Expansion

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Each year, nearly 70 percent of community college freshman in Tennessee are forced into remedial math courses upon enrollment in higher education. In response to this policy challenge, THEC, in partnership with the Tennessee Board of Regents and Chattanooga State Community College, launched the Seamless Alignment and Integration of Learning Support (SAILS) program.

The SAILS program seeks to address remedial math needs by introducing the college developmental math curriculum in the high school senior year. By embedding the Tennessee Board of Regents Learning Support Math program in the high school Bridge Math course, students are able to work through all remedial math competencies before high school graduation. This approach was successfully piloted at four community colleges during the 2012-13 academic year.

In 2013, funding from the Governor's Online Innovation Fund supported an expansion to serve 114 schools and 6,000 students. As of mid-April, this expansion has led to over 3,500 students completing all remedial math requirements while still in high school, resulting in tuition savings of over \$5.3 million.

The 2014 budget includes \$2.6 million to expand SAILS, increasing to 12,000 students across Tennessee. In order to facilitate this expansion, a competitive Request for Proposals was issued to local school districts across the state on April 7, 2014. Districts were asked to submit a proposal that addressed their capability to successfully implement the SAILS program, specifically addressing capacity in four areas:

- 1) Math and Technology
- 2) Flexibility, Teamwork, and Innovation
- 3) Administrative and Faculty Support
- 4) Community College Partnerships

These proposals were scored by a committee of evaluators (Attachment A) and those selected will begin SAILS replication in Fall 2014.

Attachment A
2014 SAILS Program Evaluation Committee

Wendy Blackmore
TN College Access/Success Network

Victoria Harpool
TN Higher Education Commission

Herbert Brown
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