



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES DIRECT ADMISSIONS PLAN TO ADMIT STUDENTS INTO IDAHO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

(Boise). The Idaho State Board of Education has approved a new admissions initiative to provide more Idaho students with the opportunity to obtain a postsecondary certificate or degree. The initiative, called Direct Admissions, will proactively admit Idaho public high school seniors to the state's public higher education institutions based on each student's grade point average (GPA) and college entrance exam score.

At its meeting last week, the Board approved the benchmark GPA and college entrance exam score that will determine a student's admission eligibility. Students at or above the benchmark will be conditionally admitted to Idaho's eight public universities and colleges: Boise State University, Idaho State University, the University of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College, Eastern Idaho Technical College, College of Southern Idaho, College of Western Idaho and North Idaho College.

Students not meeting the benchmark will be conditionally admitted to the six public higher education institutions that offer certificate or associate degree programs: Idaho State University College of Technology, Lewis-Clark State College, Eastern Idaho Technical College, College of Southern Idaho, College of Western Idaho and North Idaho College.

"This is an initiative that provides graduating high school students with access to a postsecondary certificate, associate or bachelor degree program," said Don Soltman, President of the State Board of Education.

Each Fall, high school seniors and their parents or guardians will be notified of their admittance and encouraged to research the academic and professional-technical programs offered throughout the state's community colleges and four-year institutions. They will also be provided with financial aid information and facts regarding benefits of higher education. Students will be required to complete an admission application to the institution of their choice as a next step in the admissions process.

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Direct Admissions takes advantage of two features of Idaho's public education system. First, the State Board of Education supervises and governs public education in Idaho from elementary to higher education. As a result, the administrative structure is in place to identify where high school students can be admitted and send them an admissions packet.

Second, Idaho State University (ISU) and Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) offer two-year technical and academic associate degree programs, as well as four-year bachelor degree programs. These institutions can consider the interests and academic achievement of incoming students and advise them on the most appropriate route to meet their higher education goals. "Students in an associate degree program at LCSC may want to continue on in pursuit of a bachelor's, and they will be at a campus that already provides that opportunity. Students in the same scenario at ISU may decide to continue studies in the undergraduate and eventually graduate programs that a research institution can offer," Soltman said

In 2010, the Board set a goal that 60 percent of Idaho citizens between the age of 25 and 34 will have a postsecondary degree or certificate by the year 2020. The Direct Admissions initiative has been developed to support this goal, as well as in support of the Board's vision of an accessible, seamless public education system that results in a highly educated citizenry. "We want our students to attend our great Idaho colleges and universities. The Direct Admissions initiative can help our state reach the 60% goal and better prepare our students to enter the workforce," Soltman said.

The State Board of Education is charged with the general supervision, governance and control of the public educational institutions and the public school system of the State of Idaho. To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, please visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

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