

Article - Education

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§11–209.

(a) In this section, “near completer” means an individual who has completed some college credits but does not have a college degree and is no longer attending an institution of higher education.

(b) The Commission, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, shall create a statewide communication campaign to identify near completers in the State and to encourage near completers to re-enroll in an institution of higher education to earn a degree.

(c) The communication campaign shall:

(1) Make use of a variety of marketing media, including billboards, brochures, and electronic resources;

(2) Provide a centralized contact point for near completers to get information about and assistance with re-enrolling;

(3) Make readily available contact information for each public institution of higher education in the State; and

(4) Focus on near completers who:

(i) Earned a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a scale of 4.0 while in college; and

(ii) 1. Earned at least 45 credit hours if the individual attended a community college; or

2. Earned at least 90 credit hours if the individual attended a senior higher education institution.

(d) (1) The Commission shall develop and implement a plan that would provide an incentive to:

(i) A near completer to re-enroll and earn a degree; and

(ii) A college to identify and graduate near completers.

(2) The incentive plan shall use all available resources, including institutional funds, private sector funds, and State funds.

(e) The Commission and institutions of higher education may implement other near completer initiatives in addition to the campaign and incentive plan required

under this section.

(f) By December 1, 2013, the Commission shall submit a report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the details of the statewide communication campaign and the incentive plan, including the expected timeline for implementation.

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