Establish statewide articulation agreements to ensure college credits earned in K–12 or at one institution transfer and count toward a degree at another. Minimize or eliminate credit loss and misalignment for transitioning learners.

Colorado

Through its General Education Council, Colorado established a statewide articulation agreement between the state community college systems and state four-year universities. Within this agreement is a set of “guaranteed transfer pathways” courses. The pathways include guidance for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and concurrent enrollment courses. In May 2019, Colorado passed SB 19-176, the Concurrent Enrollment Expansion and Innovation Grant Program Act. This act clarifies the differences among concurrent enrollment, dual enrollment and other programs. It ensures that concurrent enrollment credits can be applied to a CTE program or are transferable, and it directs agencies to create a website designed to help inform students and families about their concurrent enrollment options.

OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN

The state can make its guaranteed transfer pathways policies applicable to additional degree programs. Some engineering, computer science, nursing and other degrees are currently exempted.

RESOURCES

• Guided Pathways and Guaranteed Transfer

POLICIES

• SB 19-176. Expanding Concurrent Enrollment Opportunities
College Articulation Agreements

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Florida

Florida statute requires that the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors enter into a statewide articulation agreement that preserves the state’s “2+2” system of articulation and facilitates the seamless articulation of student credit. A “2+2” system refers to students completing two years at a community or technical college and then completing the final two years at a four-year university. The agreements must include articulation between secondary and postsecondary education; associate degrees from community and technical colleges; and nationally standardized examinations through which students may earn credit (such as Advanced International Certificate of Education and Advanced Placement). Additionally, students who earn an associate degree are guaranteed admission to one of the 12 state universities.

OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN

Florida can capture data on credit loss and then consider the adoption of goals for minimizing or eliminating credit loss through the use of articulation agreements. The state can expand articulation agreements to ensure students earning sub-associate course credits or completion of such courses can be transferred so that students can earn associate/bachelor’s-level course credits, or at a minimum, the agreements can specify that these sub-associate credits or course completions will not be lost.

RESOURCES

- Statewide Articulation Agreements
- HB 7071 Final Bill Analysis
- 2019 Legislation Affecting the Florida College System
- FL Administrative Code Rule 6A-6.0573. Industry Certification Process
- FL Administrative Code Rule 6A-10.024. Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts
- HB 7071. Workforce Education
- FL Statutes 1004.013. SAIL to 60 Initiative
- FL Statutes 1007.23. Statewide Articulation Agreement
- FL Administrative Code Rule 6A-10.024. Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts
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Iowa

Iowa has long promoted voluntary articulation agreements among the state’s community colleges and Regent universities. Iowa’s college articulation agreements span both transferring college credit earned in high school to college and transferring credit between Iowa colleges. In 2009, HF 815 included formal provisions on transfer policies.

Iowa’s Liaison Advisory Committee on Transfer Students, formed in 1972, has created the bridge between Iowa’s Regent universities and community colleges and helped lead the work on the eight statewide agreements that serve as the foundation for the transfer of credit. The agreements exist for associate degrees, CTE credit, common grading symbols, credit by examination, international students and credit for educational experiences in the armed forces.

OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN
Iowa can expand the common course numbering system across all public institutions (it currently exists only at the community college level).

RESOURCES
- Transfer in Iowa

POLICIES
- 281-21.3(260C). Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Transfer Major Programs
- 681-1.2(262). Admission of Undergraduate Students by Transfer from Other Colleges