Basic Skills PLUS
Assessment and Data Questions

College and Career Readiness
August 10, 2015
Presenters: Atkinson, Tucker, Steinbeiser
Basic Skills PLUS

• Questions and requests for clarification were raised regarding Assessment requirements and accountability for Basic Skills PLUS students in the past few months. These are presented on each slide in blue.

• NCCCS College and Career Readiness staff (Atkinson, Steinbeiser and Tucker) held a webinar with colleges on August 10, 2015 to address the questions and requests for clarification.

• Responses to the questions and requests for clarifications regarding Basic Skills PLUS are provided on the following slides. These are presented in green.
Basic Skills PLUS Requirements

- Approval by NC State Board.
- Alignment with local workforce demand and industry sectors.
- Use of adult education content standards.
- Student placement is on the adult secondary education functional level until students complete their high school diploma or high school equivalency credential.

Waivers associated with a Basic Skills Plus pathway. To be added to State Board Code:
IE SBCCC 800.3 Special Provisions
Basic Skills Plus. Colleges shall waive tuition and registration fees for students enrolled in a Basic Skills Plus program up to one of the following maximums for each student:
  a) Twelve (12) credit hours of curriculum instruction.
  b) Ninety-six (96) hours of continuing education instruction provided through two or more continuing education courses, or
  c) One continuing education course that is equal to or longer than 96 hours in length.

- Students must be co-enrolled in Basic Skills and occupational courses (curriculum or continuing education) and identified in Colleague with the Basic Skills PLUS (BSKPL) flag.
- Students are not eligible to have tuition or fees waived once they have obtained their high school diploma or high school equivalency credential.
- Integrated instruction in Basic Skills and occupational courses.
- Comprehensive student support academic and non-academic are provided to students.
Update on Changes in Process
Implementing Basic Skills PLUS Career Pathways

- We would love to get a good understanding of how the new process works for implementing Basic Skills PLUS pathways since the change in requirements.

There have not been any changes in the requirements for Basic Skills PLUS. Colleges must be approved by the NC State Board to offer Basic Skills PLUS.

Process for Implementing Basic Skills PLUS Career Pathways (effective July 1, 2015)

1. Approved Colleges no longer need to submit a completed template and career pathway map to the System Office to receive approval of a new career pathway. Notify College and Career Readiness of new career pathways to be offered by sending an email to adultliteracy@nccommunitycolleges.edu. Identify in the email the new career pathway using the program title and code (curriculum) or course title and ID Number (continuing education) as listed in the Combined Course Library. Colleges are strongly encouraged to use the Basic Skills PLUS template and career pathway map while planning new career pathways.

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   a) Twelve (12) credit hours of curriculum instruction.
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   c) One continuing education course that is equal to or longer than 96 hours in length.

10/23/2015
Update on Changes in Process
Implementing Basic Skills PLUS Career Pathways

• We would love to get a good understanding of how the new process works for implementing Basic Skills PLUS pathways since the change in requirements (continued).

There have not been any changes in the requirements for Basic Skills PLUS. Colleges must be approved by the NC State Board to offer Basic Skills PLUS.

Process for Implementing Basic Skills PLUS Career Pathways (effective July 1, 2015)

2. Colleges that plan to stop offering a career pathway beginning fall 2015, should notify College and Career Readiness by sending an email to adultliteracy@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

Specify the career pathway using the program title and code (curriculum) or course title and ID Number (continuing education) as listed in the Combined Course Library.
BSKP: 12/96 Requirement

Given the new process, where are we with the 12/96 hour limits for pathways?

Waivers for Basic Skills PLUS tuition and fees.
- Per Barbara Boyce, Interim Associate Vice President for College and Career Readiness, on 10/15/2015 in response to questions on offering fee waivers in continuing education courses for Basic Skills PLUS students.
- Barbara has advised that the following language will be added to the State Board Code to address this area. Given this planned revision and per Barbara Boyce, no additional approval is needed to provide waivers to Basic Skills Plus students in curriculum or continuing education courses.

To be added to State Board Code:
IE SBCCC 800.3 Special Provisions
Basic Skills Plus. Colleges shall waive tuition and registration fees for students enrolled in a Basic Skills Plus program up to one of the following maximums for each student:
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- c) One continuing education course that is equal to or longer than 96 hours in length.
• Can we determine eligibility by the reading placement score only? In other words, if they score 9th grade or higher would they be eligible for Basic Skills PLUS?

• Placement is determined by the lowest score. You can choose to give only Reading and the placement would be based on that if they score at the Adult Secondary Education level. If you give multiple tests then the current NRS placement is based on the lowest score from all tests given.
Assessment Placement Requirement

• Does the student need an Adult Secondary Education (ASE) low or high placement to participate in Basic Skills PLUS?

• Yes, either placement is acceptable for BS PLUS. Students are not eligible for Basic Skills Plus if their assessment score is below the ASE level.
BSKPL Flag

• Might the BSKPL flag in XLGA need to be more sophisticated: indicate a date range or ranges to prevent accounting errors?

• Those flags are the starting point. Final analysis is done by the NCCCS Research and Performance Management Section to determine if a student actually met the requirements (dual or co-enrollment and an Adult Secondary Education (ASE) level placement, etc.). All students must have the Basic Skills PLUS flag to be counted as a Basic Skills PLUS student.
Checking the BSKPL Flag

• Is it now necessary to manually check every BSKPL student in XLGA from the previous year and remove the flag in the new year if they are still CCR but no longer BSKPL?

• Yes, you need to be checking on those flags for students. If they don’t meet the requirements they are excluded in final analyses, but checking helps to ensure that students are correctly accounted for in the data.
• One concern I have is that many of the programs I am interested in require (sic) a HS credential BEFORE accepting our students, whereas BSP is set up for students to work on their technical component and HS credential simultaneously...would love any suggestions!

• This is most likely a local requirement set by perhaps your internal partners (continuing education or curriculum) at your college. This is not a state policy.

• Policies that may create barriers for our students should be discussed with all partners (curriculum, continuing education, student services, external partners, etc.) with the goal of changing or removing policies that negatively impact adult education students.

• Implementation teams, regular communication, use of data are strategies that can be used to help partners understand your instructional and program support strategies for students.
Student Attendance

• How do you handle a student who is attending BSP pathway classes but not regular GED classes?

• This question appears to be related to attendance policies and practices according to the requirements of the local provider for high school equivalency classes. Remember students must be at the adult secondary education (ASE) level and co-enrolled to be eligible to receive the Basic Skills PLUS tuition or fee waiver.

• We suggest that this scenario be discussed within the local implementation team to identify ways of resolving. Basic Skills PLUS courses should offer integrated and contextualize instruction. Suggest that they talk with Cassandra Atkinson directly for technical assistance.
Changing the Placement Score

• Can we amend a placement score for a particular pathway once it has been established?

• Yes. However, there should always be documentation for the courses, instructional, program and student support strategies, etc. to be used in a career pathway.

• For Basic Skills PLUS, students must be assessed at the Adult Secondary Education (ASE) level (low or high). If it is necessary to change a placement score in a pathway, the provider organization should make sure the changes are consistent with the approved programs of study and meet the expectations of internal and external partners.

• The provider does not need to notify the System Office when a placement score is amended for a Basic Skills PLUS pathway, but placement must be at the ASE level.
How Are Basic Skills PLUS Students Accounted For?

• From our Data Specialist: How are BS PLUS students counted from year to year (calendar or program year) to help me to determine when to add or to remove BS PLUS from the Student Data field in XLGA for students. Is there overlap?

• All data for basic skills are counted on a Program Year basis. FTE is the only thing that does not fit within the Program Year.
Coding Students in Colleague

- What are the specific things we need to do in Colleague to make sure that a student is recognized as a Basic Skills Plus student?

- Make sure the BS PLUS flag is marked. Make sure that all curriculum or continuing classes are being entered to make sure co-enrollment is noted.

- Attend CIS Roundtable sessions (continuing education and curriculum) with the data entry staff from your organization to ensure you are using the correct entry procedures for Basic Skills PLUS are being followed.
Which TABE Scores Are Used?

• Do I only count TABE scores that are within the program year?

• The system only counts assessment scores from the program year and 90 days back. All placement follows the 90 day rule and standard placement rules.
Placement Score For the Year

- Can I take the highest achieved score in a subject area even if it is not the most recent score?

1. Initial Placement is set on the lowest initial score of all NRS approved tests given.
2. Initial placement never changes for the program year.
3. Current placement will change if an education functional level (EFL) gain is made in the subject in which a student was placed.
4. BS PLUS qualification is based on CURRENT PLACEMENT which is shown in Colleague.
• Is every Basic Skills Plus student automatically pulled into the cohort?

• As far as the overall BS PLUS count, they are matched to ensure there was dual enrollment during the current program year. Then they are counted in the final totals for the program year.
Student’s Assessment Level Drops After A Year in the Program

• “a student is eligible for Basic Skills PLUS (assessed at the Adult Secondary Education level (low or high) and subsequently... in the next program year, their post-test level is below the Adult Secondary Education level. Should this student be allowed to continue in Basic Skills PLUS or should they be removed.

• The student is still counted as Basic Skills PLUS for the next program year according to their initial placement of adult secondary education; they are co-enrolled; and appropriately identified as a Basic Skills PLUS student in Colleague.

• Our view is that that student should continue in the Basic Skills PLUS program for the next program year. We suggest that Basic Skills PLUS staff work with the student to provide assistance before the next scheduled assessment is administered. We recommend that this extension only by provided for one additional program year.
If a Basic Skills Plus student starts a pathway and is already at the Adult Secondary High level in everything, how can our program report growth as this student progresses through curriculum/con ed classes?

NRS growth is not reported since they are already at the Adult Secondary Education High (ASEH) level and there is no additional educational functional level gains to be made.
Making Course Revisions Within an Approved Basic Skills PLUS Career Pathway

- Are we able to delete a Basic Skills course from an approved pathway if it's deemed no longer of value to the students?

- Yes. However, there should always be documentation for the courses, instructional, program and student support strategies, etc. to be used in a career pathway.

- When it is necessary to change the courses that are offered in a pathway, the provider organization should make sure the changes are consistent with the approved programs of study and meet the expectations of internal and external partners.

- The provider does not need to notify the System Office when a specific course is deleted from a pathway unless this action removes all occupational courses (curriculum or continuing education) from the career pathway which means the pathway is no longer a part of Basic Skills PLUs.
Retaking Occupational Classes and Receiving Waivers

• If a student goes through a BSKP offering but fails the test associated with the credential and needs to retake the OE (sic) occupational education class, can we still waive the fee if they meet BSKP eligibility requirements?

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• You may consider allowing the student to re-take the course within the above provision.

• Allowing students to re-take the test after providing additional coaching, tutoring, or mentoring for the test can be a local policy. It is recommended that any extensions provided not exceed more than one program year.
How Soon Can We Start Offering New Career Pathways in Basic Skills PLUS?

- Now that we don't submit the template seeking permission to offer new pathways, how quickly will we be permitted to start new offerings once we submit our email?

- As soon as your team is ready to implement the new career pathway with notification to the System Office. Going forward, colleges that are approved for Basic Skills PLUS do not need to submit pathways for approval, they just need to notify us. See Slide #4.

- Colleges that plan to offer a new career pathway or discontinue a career pathway beginning fall 2015, should notify College and Career Readiness by sending an email to adultliteracy@nccommunitycolleges.edu. Identify in the email the new career pathway using the program title and code (curriculum) or course title and ID Number (continuing education) as listed in the Combined Course Library.
ABE Student Engagement

• How are colleges engaging ABE students?

• Suggest that this question be addressed directly to College and Career Readiness staff assigned to your college for the State Continuation Plan for guidance and technical assistance.
Creating Internal Partnerships

• What strategies are being used to create internal partnerships?

• Suggest that this question be addressed directly to College and Career Readiness staff assigned to your college for the State Continuation Plan for guidance and technical assistance.
Once the BS+ class starts....all students are enrolled in the Healthcare Academy....a new student wants to join BS+ and would miss this component...Will the student be allowed to enroll in the BS+ and go back and pick up the Healthcare Academy component after completing the others and can they be completed in any order?

This is not a state policy. This depends on the policies and requirements set locally by the provider. Also depends on the level of flexibility your program has for supporting students and meeting their instructional and training needs where possible.

Suggest that you contact Cassandra Atkinson to discuss directly.
Reporting Student Outcomes

• Do we need to keep documentation of scores, achievement, milestones, momentum points, hours, etc.?

• It is always good practice to maintain documentation of policies and program data. These data/information are essential for alignment with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, NCWorks, College and Career Readiness requirements, reporting to internal and external partners, students, community, and accountability.
TITLE II: ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY ACT

State Leadership Activities

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Any other Questions?