

## **Attachment A Stakeholder Feedback**

### **LSAC**

The members commented that they would like to keep reimbursement for students and believe that a diploma coming from the state carries more credibility.

### **Gifted Advisory Feedback**

The group was supportive of the changes and stressed that they wanted Gifted and Talented funds to go back into Gifted and Talented disbursements to districts and not be lumped in with other money. The group also supported the repeal of the regulation stating that its original intent has been met.

### **College Board**

The representative expressed concerned that doing away with the program would discourage students from taking AP courses.

### **Commonwealth Diploma Coordinators Feedback**

Several Commonwealth Diploma Coordinators from across the state were invited to participate in a WebEx on May 12, 2011 in order to provide their feedback to the proposed changes to the Commonwealth Diploma regulation. Active coordinators from large districts, as well as districts spread across the state, were chosen to participate.

The coordinators felt that if the reimbursement aspect of the program is removed, there would not be an incentive for students to apply for enrollment to receive a Commonwealth Diploma. Without the reimbursement attached to the program, one of our largest districts felt there wasn't an advantage for continuation of the program. Some of the coordinators felt that there was prestige attached to the Commonwealth Diploma, while others felt no prestige existed at all. The coordinators felt that the parents are the motivating factor behind the students' enrollment into the program.

When asked what impact on enrollment would occur if the state shifted the responsibility of the administration of the program to the district level, the coordinators felt that many of their districts would opt not to offer the program at all. They felt they do not have the manpower to handle this program at the district or the school level. They also felt that the cost would be tremendous on large districts. The coordinators feel that their districts already have the authority to award special recognitions at graduations to students without the state's involvement. They felt that offering many certificates would make it harder to enroll a student into the program than it was for just the Commonwealth Diploma Program. It was voiced that four or five certificate offerings would be less enticing than just one.

The statement was made in the WebEx from one of the attendees that "there does not need to be a tremendous amount of energy to go into this from either end, the state or the local level; I do not know that this program needs to continue from here."

If the program does continue and is left to the districts to administer, the districts suggested that the state be responsible for designing a seal for each certificate to be sent to the districts for placement on the regular high school

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diploma for distribution. The suggestion was also made for the state to print the new certificates and send them to the districts.

When asked if the coordinators felt it was time to phase out the Commonwealth Diploma program, each one agreed that it was time to do just that.