

Background: In 2013, Florida implemented HB1720, which removed the requirement for placement testing for many incoming college students. These students are identified as “exempt.” Colleges could still offer “developmental” courses but for many students these courses would now be optional. At SPC, advisors review high school transcript and provide information to incoming students on their options. Unfortunately many of the students who are advised to take developmental reading, writing and/or mathematics courses are not taking these courses. Enrollment in developmental courses at SPC dropped 17.2% from fall 2014 to fall 2015 (0505 Fall Daily Enrollment report, October 24, 2015).

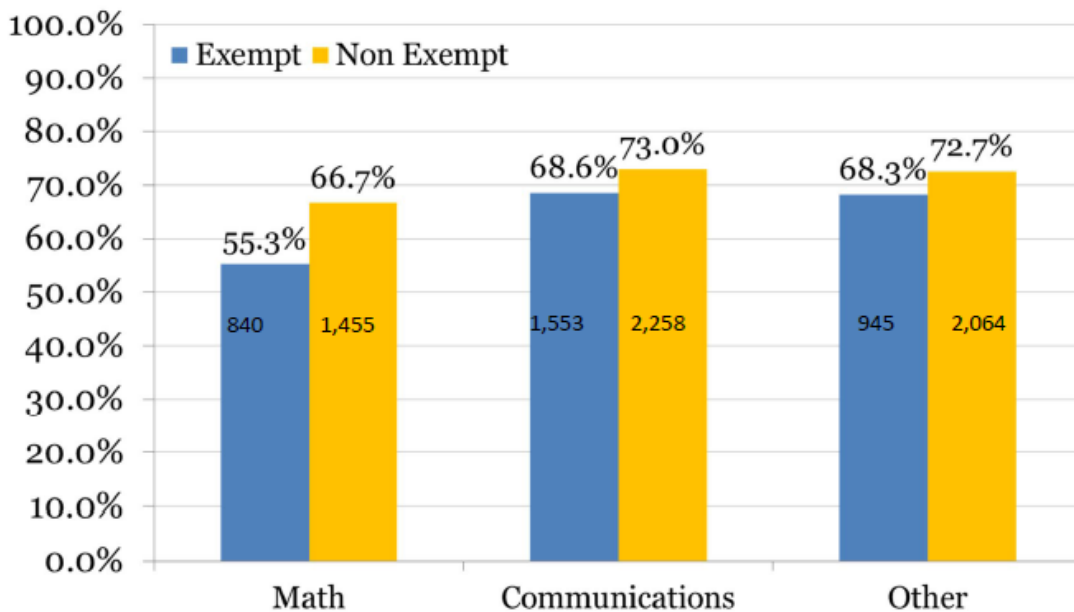
A research study by Florida State University reviewed the various approaches taken by Florida colleges to address HB1720 (Hu et. al., July 2014)

Early Results: Student success data was presented by FLDOE to the College of Presidents in 2015. Early result show lower success for “exempt” students than non-exempt students, with the largest difference in mathematics.

(http://www.myafchome.org/assets/Council_of_Presidents/Documents_Resources/2015/2015trusteesummit-ncsacedeved.pdf)



First Look Data: Success in College Credit Courses Spring 2014 by Exemption Status (FTIC Students)



Source: CCTCMIS & FCS Research & Analytics

www.FLDOE.org

It is interesting to note that research shows that reading comprehension is critical to success in many fields, including mathematics. As early as 1945 (Kirby, Journal of Educational Psychology), it was noted that improving reading comprehension could benefit students in other courses (Harvey, 2010).

College Readiness (ENC1101/MAT1100/MAT1033)

Current SPC Initiatives: There has been significant course redesign undertaken in developmental reading, writing and mathematics courses. Some courses are offered as co-requisites and personalized learning is used in some courses. Early data shows promising results.

SPC has a federally funded Title III grant, titled “The College Experience: A Pathway from Enrollment to Graduation.” The grant states that the project will identify all processes/systems, activities and programs that support, nurture and impact student success from inquiry through completion. The timeline for this grant is October 2013 through September 2018. Changes in the grant implementation were required due to HB1720.

The Title III grant includes five major initiatives:

- Refocused new student orientation
- Expanded student life skills (SLS) courses
- Integrating career and academic advising through enhancements to the student coaching system and individualized student learning plans.
- Establishment of a virtual learning community
- Active learning toolkits for math and communication gateway courses

In October 2015, SPC has applied for an AACC grant titled “Pathways Project” which focuses on improving student retention and success.

Application to QEP Topics: The QEP could expand one of the Title III initiatives or use the lessons learned from Title III to further refine an initiative. A focus on reading comprehension might be a possible path for the QEP.

Effective reading strategies could be utilized in different types of courses. Faculty and students could receive training on how to effectively read different types of course materials.

If the QEP concentrated on college readiness, it might be included as part of the Pathways Project or as a supplement.

College QEP focused on Reading Comprehension:

Hopkinsville Community College (Kentucky)

http://www.hopkinsville.kctcs.edu/en/About/Quality_Enhancement_Plan_-_QEP.aspx

Bluegrass Community & Technical College (Kentucky)

<http://www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/en/Academics/QEP.aspx>

Laredo Community College (Texas) http://www.laredo.edu/cms/LCC/About_LCC/QEP/QEP/

Tyler Junior college (Texas) <http://www.tjc.edu/info/20011/qep>

Northeast Mississippi Community College <http://www.tjc.edu/info/20011/qep>

Atlanta Technical College: <http://www.atlantatech.edu/academics/QEPReadingOasis.php>

College Readiness (ENC1101/MAT1100/MAT1033)

References:

Shouping Hu, David Tandberg, Toby Park, Amanda Nix, Rhonda Collins, & Dava Hankerson
"Developmental Education Reform in Florida: What Do Florida College System Institutions Plan To do?,"
July 2014, Center for Postsecondary Success, Florida State University.

http://www.myafchome.org/assets/Council_of_Presidents/Documents_Resources/2015/2015trusteesummit-ncsacedeved.pdf

Harvey, William B. "Reading: the key to STEM success." *Reading Today* 27.5 (2010): 18. Academic
OneFile. Web. 24 Oct. 2015.

Kilby, R. W. "The Relation Of A Remedial Reading Program To Scholastic Success In College." *Journal Of Educational Psychology* 36.9 (1945): 513-534. *PsycARTICLES*. Web. 24 Oct. 2015.