**BACKGROUND**

NO COMMON GOVERNANCE IN HIGHER ED IN ALABAMA!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TWO-YEAR COLLEGES</th>
<th>FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES</th>
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<td>25 Community/Tech Colleges</td>
<td>14 Public Universities</td>
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<td>Governed by State Board of Education</td>
<td>Governed by Individual or System Board of Trustees</td>
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**ISSUE/COMPLAINTS**

1. Loss of course credit upon transfer
   a. Extra cost for students
   b. Delay in graduation
2. Cost of duplication of courses
3. Phone calls/letters to state legislators

**ANSWER**

Alabama Legislative Act 94-202
"Articulation Legislation"

1. Created the Articulation & General Studies Committee (AGSC)
   - Responsible for creation and oversight of state transfer curriculum
   - 10 member committee representing public four-year and two-year institutions across the state
2. Expanded the role of STARS
   - Responsible for implementing AGSC Policy across state
   - Maintains website through which students obtain AGSC approved transfer guides

**IMPACT ON TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Students who attend public two-year colleges in Alabama can now use the STARS website to obtain an AGSC approved transfer guide in their major. These transfer guides, if used correctly, guide students through their first two years of coursework and prevent the loss of credit hours upon transfer to the selected public four-year universities in Alabama. **This can mean huge savings in both time and money!**

**IMPACT ON ADVISORS/COUNSELORS**

Advisors and counselors across the state can now use the information provided on the STARS Transfer Guides to help students as they attempt to plan out their education process. In the past, each individual institution accepted different courses for the same major – ultimately, this led to misinformed and disgruntled students and parents.

**IMPACT ON TWO-YEAR SYSTEM**

- Streamline course offerings
  (Reduced “Two-Year Common Course Directory”
  – Now focuses on AGSC Approved Courses)
- Improved retention rates
- Improved advising process
- Encourages cooperation and teamwork between two-year and four-year institutions
- Allows students to complete equivalent of an A.S. degree before transferring
- Reduces cost of duplication of courses

**IMPACT ON FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS**

- Provides clarity on types of two-year courses that will ultimately transfer
- Provides recruiting information from usage reports
- Forced each discipline to review the general studies requirements for their programs (found more commonality than what might have been expected) – it now encourages routine review of requirements
- Encourages cooperation and teamwork between four-year and two-year institutions
- Encourages students to complete their degrees in Alabama
- Improves “Time to Graduation”
- Reduces cost of duplication of courses

**OVERALL IMPACT**

- IMPROVES TRANSFER PROCESS
- IMPROVES ADVISING PROCESS
- ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES IN ALABAMA
- PROMOTES COOPERATION AND TEAMWORK AMONG TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS
- REDUCES DUPLICATION OF COURSES
- SAVES TIME
- SAVES TAXPAYER DOLLARS

**SAVES TAXPAYER DOLLARS!**

Since Fall of 1998, over 900,000 students have obtained STARS Transfer Guides. **If each transfer guide printed prevents a student from taking one course that won’t transfer, one could conservatively estimate that the AGSC/STARS program has saved students and parents (state taxpayers) over $900 MILLION DOLLARS in tuition, books, room and board.**