

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 10/16/01

LRB Number	01-4002/2	Introduction Number	SB-281	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
National guard active service; operation enduring freedom package					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

1. WTCS does not collect information on the military status of its students and, therefore, cannot estimate the number of WTCS students who may be ordered or inducted into active service in the armed forces of the United States during a national emergency.
2. Postsecondary and Vocational Adult in-state program tuition for 2001-2002 = \$64/per credit. College Parallel in-state tuition for 2001-2002 = \$90.00/per credit. The minimum material fee is \$3.50 per course enrollment, but these fees can vary considerably depending on the course taken. The cost of refunding 100% or a prorated amount of tuition to WTCS students called to active duty is dependent on the type of program and number of credits in which the student is enrolled. For example, for a student enrolled in:
 - *6 occupational program credits, a 100% refund of tuition and fees would equal \$384
 - *12 occupational program credits, a 100% refund of tuition and fees would equal \$768;
 - *15 occupational program credits, a 100% refund of tuition and fees would equal \$960;
 - *6 college parallel credits, a 100% refund of tuition and fees would equal \$540; and
 - *12 college parallel credits, a 100% refund of tuition and fees would equal \$1080.
3. General tuition refund procedures are contained in the WTCS Board's administrative rules (Section 10.08 of Chapter TCS 10). The existing general tuition refund policy provides for prorated refunds until the fourth week of a semester, after which time tuition refunds are not given. However, under TCS 10.08(3)(f), technical college districts are authorized to waive these general policies and adopt policies to address "special circumstances involving unforeseen student hardship." The WTCS State Director is advising technical college districts to adopt a special circumstance policy that provides a 100% refund of all tuition and fees to students who are ordered or inducted into active service in the armed forces of the United States or who are requested to work for the federal government during a national emergency or a limited national emergency.
4. Program admission procedures are also contained in the WTCS Board's administrative rules (Section 10.07 of Chapter TCS 10). However under TCS 10.07(5m), districts are authorized to adopt policies to accommodate admission for students in special circumstances. One of the factors that may be considered for special circumstances admission is "hardship." The WTCS State Director is advising technical college districts to adopt a special circumstance policy that provides a priority readmission to students who are ordered or inducted into active service in the armed forces of the United States or who are requested to work for the federal government during a national emergency or a limited national emergency.

LRB-4002/6 would result in the return of tuition and fees to some WTCS students and, therefore, a reduction in tuition and fee revenues to WTCS districts. The total fiscal effect of these refunds is not possible to estimate because WTCS does not have information on the number of potential students who may be called to active duty. However, the expected loss of tuition and fee revenues that would result from mandated tuition refunds as proposed in LRB-4002/6 would be the same as the loss of tuition and fees that will result from the 100% tuition refund policy that the State Director is currently recommending technical college districts adopt for students who are ordered or inducted into active service in the armed forces of the United States or who are requested to work for the federal government during a national emergency or a limited national emergency.

LRB-4002/6 would also result in increased administrative costs to technical college districts related to maintaining records and processing the "temporary withdrawal" and readmission of WTCS students who are called to active duty and in increased instructional costs if offered course and program enrollments are significantly affected. Again, the total fiscal effect of these administrative costs is not possible to estimate because WTCS does not have information on the number of potential students who may be called to active duty. However, the expected administrative and instructional cost increases associated with processing the mandated readmissions proposed in LRB-4002/6 and rescheduling classes and instructors would be similar to the administrative costs associated with the special circumstances admissions policy that the State Director is

currently recommending technical college districts adopt

Long-Range Fiscal Implications