



State Reports on the Cost of Remedial Education

Getting Past Go Project

Education Commission of the States (ECS)

Mary Fulton, Policy Analyst

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The Education Commission of the States' (ECS) "Getting Past Go" project seeks to leverage developmental education at postsecondary institutions as a critical component of state and system efforts to increase college attainment rates.

Nailing down the cost of providing college remedial education is riddled with challenges and controversy, but some national estimates run above \$2 billion annually. Despite the pitfalls, some states and postsecondary systems have attempted to capture what they spend on bringing unprepared students up to college-level coursework.

Arguably, calculating remediation costs/expenditures will become even more complicated as postsecondary institutions pursue a wider range of delivery – such as self-paced, computer instruction — that do not fit neatly into funding formulas based on semester-long courses.

The following reports were included in a more comprehensive analysis, [State Reporting on Developmental Education: Analysis of Findings](#), and provide examples of state and postsecondary system estimates of remedial education costs. Some of the reports offer general expenditures, while others provide more a detailed examination of the costs of delivering remedial education.

Arkansas

Access to Success: Increasing Arkansas' College Graduates Promotes Economic Development (Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Higher Education Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates, 2007)
<http://www.adhe.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/AHEC%20Board/Presentations/jpTaskForceReport-LATESTVERSION.pdf>

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- General expenditure for remedial education for 2006 (page 13)

Arkansas Academic Cost Accounting System: A Strategic Management Tool for Higher Education Planning and Campus Decision-Making

(Arkansas Department of Higher Education, 2008)

<http://www.adhe.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/Institutional%20Finance%20Division/Publications/UR2007-08.pdf>

Cost/Expenditure Data:

The report provides statewide and individual institution summary financial data (Table D):

- Total revenue and total expenditures (dollar amount)
- General revenue subsidy for remediation (dollar amount)
- General revenue subsidy for remediation as a percentage of total expenditures
- Overall totals are provided for each category, as well as subtotals for four-year institutions and two-year institutions

Note: In 2007-08, public colleges and universities expended \$65.7 million on remedial education, with \$24 million (36%) of those expenditures subsidized by state general revenue. From 1997-98 to 2007-08, total expenditures for remediation have increased from \$33 million to \$65.7 million (99%). See page 10.

Colorado

2009 Legislative Report on Remedial Education

(Colorado Department of Higher Education, 2010)

http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Remedial/FY2009/2009_Remedial_relfeb10.pdf

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Total estimated general fund cost of remedial course work for all institutions authorized to provide remediation (Table 7)
- Costs also are provided for individual institutions and totals for two-year and four-year institutions

Florida

Half of College Students Needing Remediation Drop Out; Remediation Completers Do Almost as Well as Other Students

(Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, 2007)

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/0731rpt.pdf>

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Total cost of postsecondary remediation (2005-06)
- Remediation costs for state, students and community colleges
- Revenue sources for remedial education (general revenue, lottery, other revenues, and matriculation and tuition fees) — dollar amount and percentage of total expenditures (pages 2-3)

Another Florida report provides the same cost data for 2004-05.

Steps Can Be Taken to Reduce Remediation Rates; 78% of Community College Students, 10% of University Students Need Remediation

(Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, 2006)

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/0640rpt.pdf>

Hawaii

Hawai'i Community College Annual Program Review Report: Remedial/Developmental Mathematics Program Review

(University of Hawai'i, 2009)

<http://hawaii.hawaii.edu/assessment/Program%20Reviews/2009%20Program%20Review/Annuals/Completed%20Reviews/Instruction/Remedial%20Developmental%20Math%20PR%202009.pdf>

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Remedial reading program budget allocation in dollars
- Cost per student by semester hours (pages 3 and 10)

Note: Similar reports are produced for remedial math and writing.

Hawai'i Community College Annual Program Review Report: Remedial/Developmental Mathematics Program Review

(University of Hawai'i, 2009)

<http://hawaii.hawaii.edu/assessment/Program%20Reviews/2009%20Program%20Review/Annuals/Completed%20Reviews/Instruction/Remedial%20Developmental%20Math%20PR%202009.pdf>

Hawai'i Community College Annual Program Review Report: Remedial/Developmental Writing Program Review

(University of Hawai'i, 2009)

[http://hawaii.hawaii.edu/assessment/Program%20Reviews/2009%20Program%20Review/Annuals/Completed%20Reviews/Instruction/Remedial%20Developmental%20Writing%20PR%202009%20Coversheet_Nov30%20\(2\).pdf](http://hawaii.hawaii.edu/assessment/Program%20Reviews/2009%20Program%20Review/Annuals/Completed%20Reviews/Instruction/Remedial%20Developmental%20Writing%20PR%202009%20Coversheet_Nov30%20(2).pdf)

Michigan

Developmental Education at Michigan's Community Colleges

(Michigan Office of the Auditor General, 2009)

<http://audgen.michigan.gov/comprpt/docs/r032065107.pdf>

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Total cost of providing developmental education — 2% of \$1.1 billion total expenditures for public community colleges (page 10)
- Dollar amount and percentage funded from major revenue sources (tuition and fees, property taxes, state appropriations and other sources)

Nebraska

LB 340 Community College Study

(Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, 2009)

http://www.ccpe.state.ne.us/PublicDoc/CCPE/CCStudy/CC_Study.asp

Cost/Expenditure Data:

The remedial education cost study portion of the report (Appendix 4.4) includes information for individual institutions, averages for institutions and state totals. Costs are provided for all remedial education, and by subject (math, English/reading, and ESL).

- Total cost of instruction and cost of instruction per full-time enrollment (FTE)
- Overhead costs and overhead costs per FTE (some institutions did not provide this information)
- Instruction and overhead costs per FTE

For example, the report found the following costs related to remedial education:

- Remedial Education: Cost of instruction per FTE = \$2,497 for the state; and instruction and overhead costs per FTE = \$5,973
- Math: Cost of instruction per FTE = \$2,534 for the state; and instruction and overhead costs per FTE = \$6,241
- English/reading: Cost of instruction per FTE = \$2,668 for the state; and instruction and overhead costs per FTE = \$6,006
- ESL: Cost of instruction per FTE = \$3,117 for the state; and instruction and overhead costs per FTE = \$6,408

Nevada

Nevada Remedial/Developmental Enrollments: Summer and Fall 2009

(Nevada System of Higher Education, 2010)

<http://system.nevada.edu/Chancellor/Academic-A1/Reports/Remedial-R/Remedial-Report--Fall-2009-.pdf>

Cost/Expenditure Data:

High School Feedback Section

- Number of remedial credit hours for recent high school graduates for each school, by individual institution and for all institutions, as well as the total cost of remediation for these students (beginning on page 24)

North Carolina

University of North Carolina Remedial/Developmental Activities Report (Draft)

(University of North Carolina System, 2009)

www.northcarolina.edu/bog/doc.php?code=bog&id=11276

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Total expenditures for remedial/developmental education for the system; current and constant dollars
- State funds provided for remediation
- Total expenditures for remedial/developmental education by specific type of students support (remedial courses; skills labs and tutorial centers; special services programs; summer bridge program; special advising and testing)
- Amount and percentage of remedial/developmental expenditures by state funds and non-state funding
- Percent growth or decline in remedial course sections offered, remedial enrollment and inflation-adjusted expenditures

Ohio

Costs and Consequences of Remedial Course and Enrollment in Ohio Public Higher Education: Six-Year Outcomes for Fall 1998 Cohort

(Ohio Board of Regents, 2006)

http://regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/special_reports/Remediation_Consequences_2006.pdf

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Average first year FTE and Cost per FTE, by remedial enrollment and type of institution (all institutions, two-year and four-year); cost for all first-time students, non-remedial students and remedial students

- Six-year instructional costs by academic attainment (bachelor's degree, associate degree, persisted through 6th year, left school and total students) and by remedial/non-remedial enrollment (percent and number of students)
- Costs of bachelor's degree by major and level of preparation (number and percent of students who took and did not take remedial courses); majors include: all fields, engineering, health, natural sciences and math, arts and humanities, education, social and behavioral sciences, business and other
- Cost of associate degree programs by level of preparation (number and percent of students who took and did not take remedial courses); programs include: all fields, engineering, health, natural sciences and math, arts and humanities, education, social and behavioral sciences, business and other

Preparation for College Level Coursework at Ohio's Public Colleges and Universities
(Ohio Board of Regents, 2009)

http://regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/statProfiles/Preparation_Rpt%202006-07.pdf

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Dollar amount and percent of state support for remedial instruction as a share of total state report for higher education; by institution type (page 7)

Washington

Role of Pre-College (Developmental and Remedial) Education for Recent High School Graduates Attending Washington Community and Technical Colleges

(Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, 2009)

http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/docs/data/research_reports/resh09-3_role_of_pre-college_education.pdf

Cost/Expenditure Data:

- Average cost per FTE for remedial courses spent by community/technical colleges for recent high school graduates and for all remedial coursework (page 8)

Please contact Mary Fulton at mfulton@ecs.org with questions or if we overlooked a report on remedial education costs.

Getting Past Go is a national initiative of the Education Commission of the States (ECS), Knowledge in the Public Interest (KPI) and Policy Research on Preparation, Access and Remedial Education (PREPARE) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, funded by Lumina Foundation for Education to work with states to develop state and system policy to increase the college success of students who are placed in remedial and developmental education. Please visit the [Getting Past Go](#) Web site for additional information.

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