

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – J
DATE: March 27-29, 2018

SUBJECT

Proactive Admissions Update

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2.3](#) – System Undergraduate Admissions

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

During their [August 2017](#) meeting, the Board approved the second reading of the updated admissions policy to provide the policy framework that would allow for the admission of high school students based on their performance on the Smarter Balanced assessment test administered to all South Dakota students at the conclusion of the eleventh grade. Data agreements between SDBOR and SDDOE as well as those between SDDOE and school districts were updated to be able to utilize the necessary data fields.

Proactive Admissions grants guaranteed general admission to students at South Dakota public high schools earning a Level 3 or 4 on the English language arts and math portions of the Smarter Balanced test or an ACT composite score of 18 or higher to Regental institutions and South Dakota technical institutes.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

Proactive Admissions letters were mailed to 4,439 students in September with an application deadline of December 1. The December 1 deadline was established as a benchmark to compare application rates to previous years. 2,457 students from South Dakota public high schools submitted online applications to Regental institutions prior to December 1, 2017, compared to 2,055 by the same date in 2016.

- Since Fall 2012, the percentage of high school seniors at public high schools applying to Regental institutions prior to December 1 has steadily increased, though enrollment from those same high schools has not seen the same increase.
- Used in conjunction with College Application Week, Proactive Admissions has the potential to become a powerful recruitment tool.
- The increase in applicants prior to December 1 was not limited to College Application Week schools. Districts like Aberdeen, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, and Yankton saw an increase from prior years. Early applications from

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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Proactive Admission Update

March 27-29, 2018

Page 2 of 2

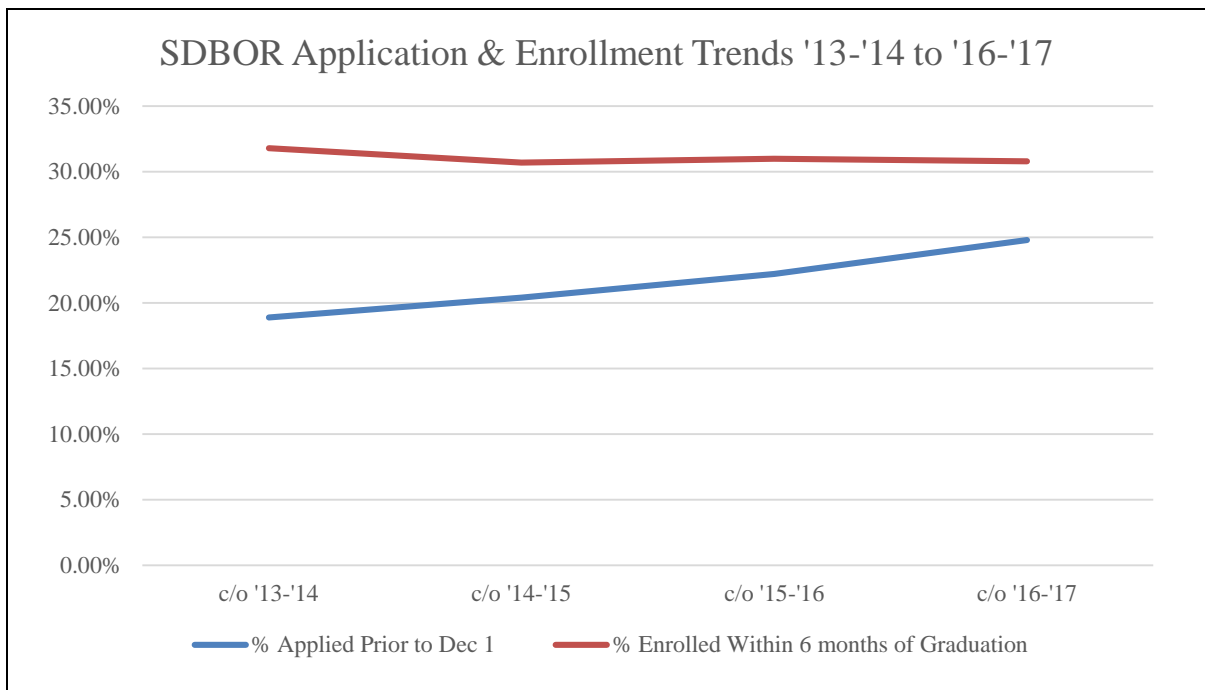
Sioux Falls Lincoln and Sioux Falls Washington are up nearly 10% in the last five years with Sioux Falls Roosevelt seeing a 5% increase.

- It is important to note that only students enrolled at public high schools with the appropriate data agreements with the South Dakota Department of Education were eligible for Proactive Admissions. Students at private or Tribal/BIE high schools did not receive letters.
- Data do not include paper applications or applications to technical institutes.

<i>Percentage of South Dakota Public High School Seniors Submitting Applications Prior to December 1*</i>					
2012	2013	2014**	2015	2016	2017
15.7%	18.9%	20.4%	22.2%	24.8%	29.3%

*Percentage based on South Dakota Department of Education enrollment data

**2014 – College Application Week Pilot



ATTACHMENTS

None