



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

1280 ASYLUM AVENUE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

### RESOLUTION

Concerning

ALTERATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR THE  
NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM AT FOUR YEAR COLLEGES

November 1, 1974

WHEREAS, Resolution SCR #71-5, dated September 10, 1971 authorizes Connecticut State Colleges to participate in the New England Regional Student Program as administered by the New England Board of Higher Education, and

WHEREAS, A proposal to alter eligibility guidelines as set forth in the September 10, 1971 resolution has been submitted to the State Colleges' representative for ratification by the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, Under such changes enrollment at any four year college will be available to bona fide residents of New England on either or both of the following bases:

1. That the curriculum in which the resident wishes to enroll is not available at a participating, in-state institution.
2. That the curriculum in which the resident wishes to enroll is available at a participating out-of-state institution which is located closer to the resident's place of residence than any participating in-state institution.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges approves the proposed revision in eligibility requirements for the Academic Year 1976-1977, subject to the ratification by other participating States.

A Certified True Copy:

James A. Frost  
Executive Secretary

A PROPOSAL TO ALTER ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR  
THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM  
AT FOUR YEAR COLLEGES

At a meeting last June of the State College Representatives to the Regional Student Program, a motion presented by Ferguson McKay, Dean, Lyndon State College, was unanimously approved. This motion called for the alteration of the present eligibility guidelines for regional student participation at four year colleges to conform with the guidelines now governing participation at two year colleges. A July 23 memorandum from Joan-Faye Livergood (NEBHE) to the State College Representatives requested that the implementation of that resolution be delayed until the Advisory Committee reviewing the entire Regional Student Program could make its report to the New England Governors' Conference in November 1974.

The purpose of this proposal is to report that in the preliminary findings of the Advisory Committee (that will actually be presented to the New England Governors on December 5) there is nothing that would prohibit the earliest implementation of the proposed changes to the eligibility guidelines and that NEBHE is prepared to implement those guidelines following

ratification by the various Boards of Trustees, Regents, Commissions governing the four year colleges of the region.

Supporting Rationale

In examining enrollment patterns in the Regional Student Program it has become evident that growth at four year colleges has lagged behind growth in the other two sectors. Last year (1973/74) there were only 305 regional students enrolled in all four year colleges of the region, a number that represents 10% of total regional student enrollment. In terms of total enrollment at the four year college level, regional students represent 0.25% of all full time degree credit enrollment while the comparable percentages at the universities and two year colleges are 1.8% and 1.2% respectively.\*

A possible explanation for the relatively low regional enrollment growth at four year colleges has been the slow expansion in the number of programs open to regional students. Over the last three years the number of programs open to regional students at four year colleges has increased from 220 - 241 the latter figure representing 15% of all programs open to regional students in 1974/75.

NEBHE feels that the proposed alterations to the eligibility guidelines for four year colleges would increase regional student enrollment at such institutions and would bring that sector of the public system more in line with the growth patterns experienced by the universities and two year colleges.

\*See attached table

An additional reason stems from the work of the Advisory Committee mentioned earlier. While this committee has been mainly concerned with the regional impact when popular regional student programs have been withdrawn, in the course of its study it has also expressed its feelings on the long range development possibilities for the regional student program. The Committee sees as long range goals the gradual reduction of eligibility barriers to regional interchange of students but at the same time financial guarantees that would accompany any grievous imbalance in the interstate flow of students. In fact the Committee will ask the New England Governors for their support of an effort to develop a regional "balance of payments plan" that would assist those states who bear a disproportionate financial burden for the education of residents of other states.

The proposed changes in the eligibility requirements for our four year institutions would move us in the direction the Committee feels desirable for the regional student program in general. Under such changes enrollment at any four year college would be available to bona fide residents of New England on either or both of the following bases:

1. That the curriculum in which the resident wishes to enroll is not available at a participating, in-state institution.
2. That the curriculum in which the resident wishes to enroll is available at a participating out-of state institution which is located closer to the resident's place of residence than any participating in-state institution.

Because these proposed changes have been approved by four year college representatives to the Regional Student Program, NEBHE assumes that they also meet your approval and the approval of your respective governing boards. NEBHE would hope that the new guidelines would be approved in time for discussions next spring of the regional program offerings for the academic year 1976/77.

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEGREE CREDIT ENROLLMENT REPRESENTED  
 BY REGIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT, 1973/74

	MA	CT	VT	NH	RI	ME	REGION
UNIV	0.66	2.84	2.61	1.52	2.67	0.64	1.80
4 YEAR COLL	0.09	0.04	2.67	0.40	0.20	0.86	0.25
2 YEAR COLL	1.70	0.23	1.85	3.41	2.10	1.62	1.22
SPEC. INST.	0.94	0.00	--	--	--	?	?
TOTAL	0.67	0.73	2.53	1.50	2.15	0.91	0.99