

BACKGROUND

Recognition is a statutory term describing the status of a district which meets instructional, administrative, financial, facility and equipment standards as established by the Illinois Community College Board (110ILCS Section 805/2-12f and 805/2-15). Community colleges must be recognized to be eligible for state funding. Once a college district has been recognized by the ICCB, that recognition status is continued unless action is taken by the Board to interrupt it. To determine a district's recognition status, the ICCB conducts periodic evaluations. The objectives of the recognition evaluation include 1) determination of a district's compliance with the Public Community College Act and ICCB Administrative Rules; 2) the provision of assistance to districts in achieving compliance with the Act and Rules; 3) the identification of issues which may be of concern to the community college system and the gathering of basic data about these issues; and 4) the identification of exemplary district practices/programs that can be shared with other districts. Based on a five-year cycle, ICCB staff conducts recognition evaluations to assure that districts are in compliance with selected standards. All districts are evaluated on a select number of standards during the same five-year cycle. ICCB staff makes an assessment on each individual standard and on a global basis considering all focused and non-focused standards. On individual standards districts are identified as either in compliance or not in compliance. Compliance recommendations require the college to take immediate action to adhere to a particular law or administrative rule, and advisory recommendations are suggestions by staff to improve upon a current process or practice. Advisory recommendations are not mandatory and do not affect a college's overall recognition status.

At the conclusion of the recognition review, the ICCB staff presents a report to the Board and the college to summarize the evaluation. Based on the report, the Board may take one of three types of action:

Recognition Continued – The district generally meets ICCB statutory laws and administrative rules. A district which has been granted a status of “recognition continued” is entitled to receive ICCB grants for which it is otherwise entitled and eligible.

Recognition Continued-with Conditions – The district does not meet ICCB standards. A district which has been assigned the status of “recognition continued-with conditions” is entitled to receive ICCB grants for which it is otherwise entitled and eligible, but it is given a specified time to resolve the conditions which led to the assignment of that status. A follow-up evaluation is scheduled no sooner than three nor longer than nine months after ICCB action on the assignment to determine the district's progress in resolving the conditions.

Recognition Interrupted – The district fails to take corrective action to resolve the conditions placed upon it under “recognition continued-with conditions” within a prescribed time period. A district which has been assigned a status of “recognition interrupted” may apply for recognition at such time as all requirements set forth by the ICCB have been satisfied. A district will have state funding suspended on a pro rata, per diem basis for the period of time for which such status is in effect.

The final report, including college responses, is externally attached.