



Testimony on Senate Bill 17
Senate Education Committee
February 13, 2019

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thompson, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas, and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 17. SB 17 is an agency bill that establishes a task force on the Implementation of Electronic Transcripts (eTranscripts). It was developed in collaboration between HECC, Department of Education, and Chief Education Office staff.

My colleague Erin Weeks-Earp will go into greater detail about what eTranscripts are and how they can potentially benefit students, school districts, and higher education institutions. However, the main goal of this bill is to determine the feasibility and conduct a cost-benefit analysis of developing a statewide system capable of pulling together data from multiple sources to instantly generate a student record that can facilitate district to district, high school to college, and college to college transition.

Such a system has a potential to smooth transitions, reduce loss of credits for students that do not have the money or expertise to aggregate all their credentials, and ultimately, simplify district and institution processes.

The task force constituted by the bill would have equal K-12 and higher education institution representation and would be charged with determining how to implement such a transcript system. In doing its work, the task force must consider several goals and factors. Amongst these goals and factors, the task force must examine if and how eTranscripts can:

- Improve accelerated learning credit tracking
- Increase financial aid access
- Provide equitable access to advising, counseling, and career planning
- Protect student privacy, and
- Improve longitudinal research

Our goal is to produce a report before the end of the calendar year for the legislature to consider in advance of the 2020 legislative session. Because of the ambitious timeline, HECC and ODE would begin work immediately.

Thank you for your time today.