

HB 369: An act requiring school districts to pay the fee for students to take a national, curriculum-based college entrance examination; providing an appropriation; and providing an effective date

Retention Rates

At the January 28 Hearing on HB 369, Representative Scott Sales asked: Did increasing college-going rates in other states also increase the number of students dropping out of two and four-year colleges?

For those states cited in the supporting information provided at the hearing for HB 369, the table below shows that retention rates increased in most cases.

Percent of Fall, First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Returning the Following Fall Semester, 2002:

Four-Year Colleges/Universities

Two-Year Colleges

State	Percent Returning	Change from 01	State	Percent Returning	Change from 01
Colorado	75.2%	+ 0.3%	Colorado	49.7%	+ 2.9%
Illinois	79.2%	+ 3.1%	Illinois	53.3%	+ 1.7%
Oklahoma	71.0%	0	Oklahoma	45.5%	- 1.3%
Montana	67.3%	+ 0.7%	Montana	43.9%	0

Source: National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis, 2002.

In addition, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (2005) reports that the retention rate across the four-year system (including transfers) increased from 80.9% in 2000 to 82.2% in 2002—the first cohort of ACT statewide testers; and for two-year units, from 58.6% in 2000 to 61.3% in 2002. Minority retention rates also increased: 76.9% in 2000 to 78.7% in 2002 for four-year units and 42.7% in 2000 to 43.2% in 2002 for two-year units.