Potential Impact of HB5

The current proposed legislative changes awaiting signature will provide P-16 Councils with an opportunity to have a voice concerning the needs within their communities and will challenge them to continue the push for college readiness in students in an effort to stem the need for developmental education programs.

1. The change in the graduation program from 3 different possibilities to a foundation program with endorsements has the potential to provide councils with the opportunity to work on course development. The endorsements in STEM, Business & Industry, Public Services and Arts & Humanities, and the opportunity that districts will have to work with business in the community and postsecondary institutions to create courses to compliment these various pathways is a golden one. Though courses developed will still have to be submitted for approval, a council can work with their community and postsecondary institutions to look at where their greatest market needs may be and be a part of the development process to meet those needs. In working in this capacity, councils will have more of an inside view of the requirements for courses that high school students must complete. Even with the endorsements, students will be required to achieve a level of proficiency to be deemed college or career ready.
2. The reduction of assessment requirements for secondary students is disheartening, but can provide councils with the opportunity to emphasize the need for rigor if students are going to be successful at the postsecondary level or move directly into the workforce or military. This requirement for rigor is a battle cry we will need to continue, but perhaps we’ll have to change our methodology of delivering the cry. It is apparent that the group opposed to establishing increased rigor for students had a more powerful megaphone. The businesses and institutions that these students seek out upon graduation must be more vocal about their requirements for academic and job success.
3. School district accountability will include a grade for community involvement and 21st Century workforce development programs and this is another avenue where P-16 Councils can have a voice. This requirement will allow councils to extend their reach into other towns and districts where this type of partnership has not yet taken place. School districts will be looking to communities where businesses and postsecondary partnerships have flourished, and councils have the opportunity for expansion to help meet their needs. Educating the community and the students is a foundational requirement of most P-16 Councils.