

Talking Points

What is the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (*CCSSE*)?

- » *CCSSE* is an assessment tool that provides information on student engagement, a key indicator of learning and, therefore, of the quality of community colleges.
- » The survey is comprised of items that assess institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention.

Why should our college participate in *CCSSE*?

- » Community colleges face increasing expectations for quality, performance, and accountability set by governing boards, state and federal governments, accrediting organizations, and the public. Key among these expectations is that colleges emphasize assessment and improve student retention and learning. *CCSSE* helps colleges meet these needs.
- » *CCSSE*'s purpose is threefold:
 1. **Benchmarking:** Allows colleges to compare performance by community and technical colleges to national norms. *CCSSE*'s five national benchmarks of effective educational practice for community colleges are active and collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and support for learners.
 2. **Diagnosing:** Assists colleges in identifying areas in which a college can enhance students' educational experiences.
 3. **Monitoring:** Provides documentation and improvement of institutional effectiveness over time.

Who participates in *CCSSE*?

- » More than 2.8 million student respondents have taken the survey since 2001.
- » Administrations have occurred in over 950 colleges from 50 states and the District of Columbia, plus five Canadian provinces as well as Bermuda, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Northern Marianas, and Guam.
- » Member college information can be accessed at ccsse.org/aboutccsse/colleges.cfm.

How is *CCSSE* administered?

- » *CCSSE* is administered during the spring academic term (February through May).
- » For the in-class administration, the survey is administered as a pencil-and-paper survey and is designed to be completed in one 50 minute class period. A random sample stratified by class start time is pulled from all spring for-credit courses. The sampling unit is the class that is comprised of students, and the random selection of students is the principle objective.
- » For the online administration, in order to boost responses, *CCSSE* does not employ a sampling strategy. Instead, the online survey invitation is sent to all students who are enrolled in survey-eligible courses.