

SOUTH CAROLINA PARTICIPATION IN SREB PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) was founded in 1948 by the Governors of the member states specifically to help states share resources and improve higher education.
- Today, SREB continues to organize and administer regional arrangements to avoid costly duplication and expensive development of programs that provide access to undergraduate and graduate programs in specialized areas by waiving out-of-state tuition.
- SREB data collection, SREB policy documents, comparative research and publications on K-20 issues as well as participation in several other programs are benefits of South Carolina's membership in this sixteen state consortium.
- The SREB operates through state support provided by the member states. SREB's 16 member states are AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WV.
- Each year, the Governors of the member states receive an invoice for their share of SREB general operations and regional education programs of the SREB and contracts-for-services. The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) coordinates South Carolina's participation in higher education programs under the SREB, and state funding for SREB participation and programs flows through CHE.
- Over the years, state support has enabled numerous South Carolinians to benefit directly through access to programs at rates not available without South Carolina's participation in SREB. Last year alone, over 241 students took part in SREB higher education programs. South Carolina itself benefited from timely policy information and other regional programs.

SREB General Operation and Regional Education Programs offers benefits by enabling access to student programs such as the *Academic Common Market*, which provides access to undergraduate and graduate programs in specialized areas, and the *Electronic Campus*, which is an "electronic marketplace" for courses, programs and services. In addition, South Carolina benefits from access to a wealth of SREB publications and data sharing resources and ability to participate in other regional programs. SREB works with higher education and K-12 agencies in the 16 member states to collect and share timely comparative information and data and to produce policy reports used extensively by state leaders.

SREB Higher Education Contract Programs offer students pursuing professional health degrees admission to schools in other states for the price of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions and for reduced tuition at private institutions. Participating states pay schools to maintain spots in their professional programs and save the expense of building and staffing these schools. South Carolina participates in Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University, the University of Georgia, and Mississippi State University and in Optometry at Southern College in Tennessee and the University of Alabama. SREB serves as the fiscal agent and handles the administrative duties for participating states. SC has participated in veterinary medicine programs since 1958 and optometry since 1973. Funding enables a total of 104 students in veterinary medicine and 24 in optometry.

Academic Common Market was established in 1974 by SREB to share among member states specified degree programs located at southern public colleges and universities through an exchange of students across borders at in-state rates. As a cooperative agreement among states, the Academic Common Market seeks to eliminate unnecessary duplication of degree programs while supporting those programs which are able to serve additional students. The program allows residents of the 16 member states to pay in-state tuition rates while enrolled in certain degree programs at participating out-of-state colleges and universities. In accord with SREB policy, eligible programs are those undergraduate and graduate programs which are at least 50 percent different in course content from programs offered in the home state. Currently, SC institutions have made 124 programs available through the Academic Common Market, and SC residents have access to 430 out-of-state programs. In 2010, 161 South Carolinians were certified to access programs in other SREB states.

Doctoral Scholars Program provides financial assistance and academic support to minority students who are admitted to doctoral programs. The program's purpose is to produce more minority PhDs and to encourage them to seek faculty positions. The program was begun in 1993. In 2006, SREB announced its 300th graduate and noted that almost 80 percent of the program's graduates are now employed on college and university campuses in 38 states. This past year 12 new and continuing students from SC participated in the program.

Tuition Aid Program (Arts Program) provides tuition assistance to SC residents to attend the North Carolina School of the Arts, a conservatory-based high school program in Winston-Salem to train professionals in the arts. The amount per student is determined by the amount appropriated divided by the number of South Carolina residents who attend. Two students attended last year and three the year before.

SREB Funding and FY 2012-13 Request

Current FY 2011-12 appropriations for SREB programs and services total \$3,476,927 (including \$2,885,908 in recurring funds and \$591,019 in nonrecurring funds). In FY 2011-12, the appropriations for SREB are found across three lines in CHE's base budget – SREB Contract Program Scholarships (\$1,371,930), SREB Fees and Assessments (\$1,506,801) and Arts Program (\$7,177) – with the balance necessary to meet the program needs appropriated in non-recurring funds (\$591,019) from Proviso 90.18.

For FY2012-13, CHE is requesting funding to maintain level participation in the SREB programs. The requested increase over recurring base funds is \$551,309.

FY 2012-13, SREB program costs and requested funding are outline as follows:

SREB Contract Programs	\$3,038,400*
Veterinary Medicine at University of Georgia, Mississippi State University and Tuskegee (104 students at \$25,800 per student) and	
Optometry at Southern College of Optometry and University of Alabama (24 students at \$14,800 per student).	
Doctoral Scholars Program (12 students at \$25,000 per student)	\$300,000
Tuition Aid Program (Arts Program)	\$7,177
SREB General Appropriations and Regional Education Programs	<u>\$193,550</u>
Total FY 2012-13 Need	\$3,539,127
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FY 2011-12 Recurring General Fund Appropriation	\$2,885,908
<i>Unexpended SREB funds carried forward**</i>	<i>\$101,910</i>
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Resulting FY 2012-13 Request after consideration of available recurring funds and carry forward:	Recurring Increase of \$551,309
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*Per student rates for Optometry and Veterinary Medicine increased in FY 2012-13 per SREB scheduled increases - Optometry contract costs were increased by \$500 per student and Veterinary Medicine by \$800 per student or an overall increase of \$95,200 (104x\$800 plus 24x\$500). Other SREB lines remain at the same level as the previous year.

**CHE is authorized by proviso (FY12, 6.8) to carry forward funds appropriated for SREB programs and expend such funds for the same purpose. Carry forward funds may result in any year if all available funded SC contract seats are not fully filled due to occasional student stop-outs which may occur during the year. The request anticipates all seats being filled.