

# CWID DATA NOTE

## Reverse Transfer: The National Landscape

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### Introduction

Reverse transfer policies and programs are spreading across the country, including the 15 states funded by the CWID initiative. To understand the national landscape of reverse transfer, the Office of Community College Research and Leadership examined the prevalence of reverse transfer policies across all 50 states. The purpose of this brief is to document the prevalence and nature of state legislation and institutional reverse transfer programs. The tables and figures differentiate between states that have reverse transfer legislation (including pending/proposed legislation) and those states that have reverse transfer programs, but with no legislative policy.

### Method

To identify state legislative policies, we used publicly accessible legislative search engines such as [www.billtrack50.com](http://www.billtrack50.com) and [www.openstates.org](http://www.openstates.org) to search for state legislation specific to reverse transfer that was passed or proposed within each of the 50 states. In addition, we used the Education Commission of the States website (<http://ecs.force.com/mbdata/mbprofallRT?Rep=TA14A>), which tracks trends in state policies, to review current higher education policies within the states in order to find more information on transfer policies within the state. In addition, we reviewed state board and agency websites to find evidence of statewide reverse transfer efforts.

If we did not locate state legislation via the above websites, we conducted a Google search to identify evidence of reverse transfer programs on institutional or state board/agency websites. After conducting these searches, all states with the exception of Alaska have either 1) state legislation (or pending/proposed legislation); or 2) at least one institution with a reverse transfer program. For states with existing or pending/proposed reverse transfer legislation, we also identified and described the legislation.

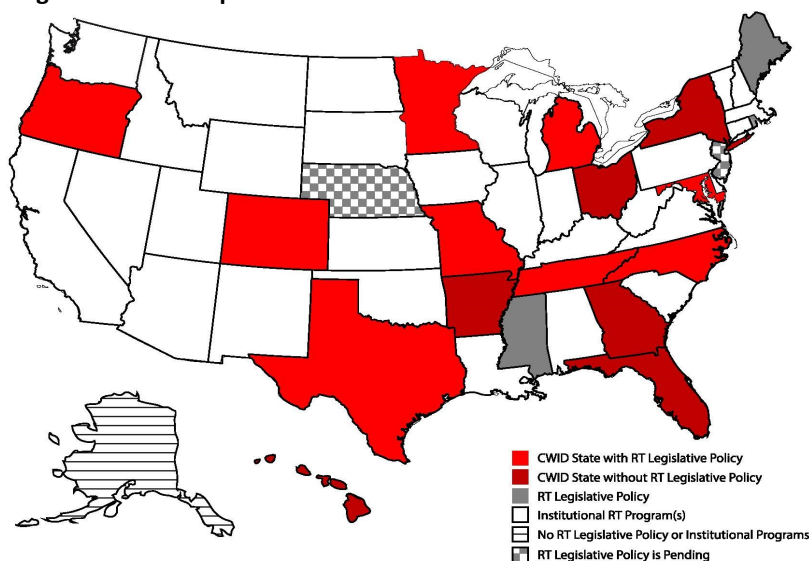
### Results

As highlighted in Table 1, 13 states have either passed reverse transfer legislation or reverse transfer legislation is pending/proposed. With the exception of Alaska, we found evidence of at least one reverse transfer program between 2- and 4- year institutions in the other 36 states. Of

those 13 states with state legislative policy, eight are participating in the CWID initiative. Table 2 lists and describes the legislative language of reverse transfer policies that have been passed in each of the 13 states with formal reverse transfer legislation. All states with formal policy or institutional programs are highlighted in Figure 1 below.

Among the 13 states with legislative policy, the most common feature of state legislation is that the legislation charges the state's higher education coordinating board, governing board, or state agency to develop reverse transfer processes or policies. Some state policies provide details about the parameters of reverse transfer programs. For example, some policies articulate specific regulations in regards to the number of credits earned at 4-year institutions that can be used for reverse transfer such as New Jersey, which sets a 30 credit minimum. Similarly, Rhode Island's policy specifically states that 80% of the credits earned at a 4-year institution can be transferred back to the community college. However, most of the language regarding reverse transfer policies is vague and does not articulate specific requirements for how universities and colleges implement reverse transfer. Such legislation instead directs the state's higher education governing board or agencies to develop and implement reverse transfer.

Figure 1: State Map



**Table 1: Reverse Transfer in the 50 States**

State	Reverse Transfer Legislation	Reverse Transfer Programs between 2- and 4-year Institutions
Alabama	No	Yes
Alaska**	No	No
Arizona	No	Yes
Arkansas	No	Yes
California	No	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	Yes
Delaware	No	Yes
Florida	No	Yes
Georgia	No	Yes
Hawaii	No	Yes
Idaho	No	Yes
Illinois	No	Yes
Indiana	No	Yes
Iowa	No	Yes
Kansas	No	Yes
Kentucky	No	Yes
Louisiana	No	Yes
Maine	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes
Montana	No	Yes
Nebraska	Pending	Yes
Nevada	No	Yes
New Hampshire	No	Yes
New Jersey	Pending	Yes
New Mexico	No	Yes
New York	No	Yes
North Carolina	No	Yes
North Dakota	No	Yes
Ohio	No	Yes
Oklahoma	No	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	No	Yes
South Dakota	No	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah	No	Yes
Vermont	No	Yes
Virginia	No	No
Washington	No	Yes
West Virginia	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes
Wyoming	No	Yes

\*\* Denotes states with no legislation and no agreements.

**Table 2: State Legislative Policies Related to Reverse Transfer among CWID States**

State	Legislation	Summary of Legislation Related to Reverse Transfer
Colorado	Senate Bill 12-045 (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charges the Higher Education Commission to work with 2-year and 4-year boards to develop and coordinate a “reverse transfer” process</li> <li>Requires developing a “notification process” for students who accumulate 70 credits at university and who met 2-year residency requirement</li> <li>Requires implementation by 2013-2014 year</li> <li>Defines key contents of the notification process</li> </ul>
Florida	Florida Statute 1007.25 (Senate Bill 478 passed in 1971)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows students at state universities to request AA degree from the university if student completes the minimum degree requirements</li> </ul>
Maine	Workforce Development Bill LD-90 (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires Chancellor of University of Maine System and the president of Maine Community College to work together to improve transfer and articulation policies</li> <li>Specifically states that a student who transfers to the university or who has earned credits from a campus of the system, can earn an associate’s degree after fulfilling the appropriate requirements toward the degree at the university</li> </ul>
Maryland	Senate Bill 740 (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires Maryland Higher Education Commission to work with public institutions to develop statewide “reverse transfer” agreement</li> </ul>
Michigan	Act No. 201, Public Acts of 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires universities to participate in “reverse transfer” agreements with at least three community colleges to receive performance funding</li> <li>Encourages community colleges to work with universities to establish “reverse transfer” agreements</li> </ul>
Mississippi	SB 2061 (2013) (Died in committee Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asks the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of higher learning and the Mississippi Community College Board to implement reverse transfer policies</li> </ul>
Missouri	House Bill 1042 (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charges the coordinating board to develop a policy to foster “reverse transfer” for students who have met enough hours from a public higher education institution that offers associate’s degrees and one public four-year institution</li> </ul>
Nebraska	LB- 162 (2013) (Currently being held by education commission, pending approval).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed bill calls for 2- and 4-year institutions to work with the coordinating commission for post-secondary education to develop reverse transfer programs</li> </ul>
New Jersey	Assembly Bill A2802 (2014) (Pending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directs Secretary of Higher Education to establish a communication and incentive plan to encourage re-enrollment in college</li> <li>Requires State-wide reverse transfer</li> <li>Sets a 30 credit minimum for credits earned at 4-year institutions that can be used for reverse transfer</li> </ul>
Oregon	House Bill 3521 (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charges agencies to create standards for a “reverse transfer” process</li> </ul>
Rhode Island	S 05011 Substitute A (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charges state board of education to implement and regulate a reverse transfer policy</li> <li>80% of credits earned at 4-year institution can be transferred back to community college for purposes of reverse transfer</li> </ul>
Tennessee	Senate Bill 2431 and House Bill 2827 (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorizes and encourages reverse transfer agreements between the board of regents’ community colleges and universities in the board of regents and UT systems</li> </ul>
Texas	House Bill 3025 (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes the reverse transfer process between public community colleges and universities</li> <li>Texas public universities are required to identify and track eligible students for reverse transfer</li> </ul>

## The CWID DATA NOTE Series

This CWID Data Note is the second in a series of Data Notes published by the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL). The first data note, “Cumulative College Credits and Reverse Transfer Eligibility Policies” drew upon student-level data collected by the OCCRL to answer questions regarding how cumulative college credit requirements influence the proportion of students that are impacted by reverse transfer. The purpose of the Data Note Series is to report emerging results from the CWID initiative and to inform ongoing policy development and implementation for states adopting reverse transfer policies. The Data Note series will continue by to answer policy-relevant questions using the CWID Baseline Study Dataset, Impact Study Dataset, and qualitative data. We encourage readers to review the CWID Baseline Report released in October 2013 to review past results of the CWID initiative and a full description of the purpose of the Baseline Study and aggregate results across the 12 states.

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## Credit When It’s Due

The Credit When it’s Due (CWID) initiative is a national grant program designed to facilitate the development and implementation of “reverse transfer” degree programs. CWID represents a joint venture of several foundations: Lumina Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA funds, The Helios Education Foundation, and Greater Texas Foundation. The following 15 states have been awarded CWID grants: Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, and Texas. For more information on the work done by OCCRL on the CWID initiative we encourage readers to visit the CWID resources page located on the OCCRL website, <http://occrll.illinois.edu/projects/cwid/resources/>. The CWID resources page contains previous publications, blogs, along with previous editions of the monthly CWID messenger. The CWID messenger is a monthly newsletter sent out to CWID subscribers that highlights projects, presentations, blogs, and current or ongoing research. In order to subscribe to the monthly CWID messenger please visit this site, <http://occrll.illinois.edu/join-the-occrll-mailing-list-listserv/>, and check the CWID box to receive all CWID related correspondence.

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