Implementation of Recommendations to Reduce Costs of Open Access Textbooks and Resources

1) E-Text Adoption

Today's eText options include collaboration and interactive elements that can enhance the student learning experience. eText platforms are available for tablets and mobile devices making learning available anytime, anywhere. Generally, eTexts can be made available to students at a lower price than printed textbooks.

2) Volume Pricing

Negotiate volume pricing for textbooks and other educational materials used in the State general education core. Leverage the buying power of the state system or other consortium such as Unizin to garner the lowest possible pricing.
1. Unizin provides publisher content through its eText tool, Engage.
    a. Currently, Unizin has agreements with 16 publishers including:
    b. Cengage
    c. Macmillan (Bedford Freeman & Worth) (Includes Launchpad)
    d. McGraw Hill
    e. Pearson (includes MyLab and Mastering Products)
    f. SAGE
    g. Wiley
    h. Negotiations are ongoing with additional publishers.
2. Identify education startup companies and open source platforms that provide e-textbooks and negotiate with these companies to ensure the greatest financial benefit for students.

3) Catalog Tool

Lower-cost eTexts and OER should be combined into a catalog tool that allows efficient discovery and selection of appropriate course material (see tactic 2.1.1.) The following two initiatives are currently underway: Unizin is developing a catalog tool that will work with Engage, its eText platform, and FLVC is working toward integrating the Orange Grove repository with the new Integrated Library System through its digital repository component, Vital.

4) Library Resources

Build on existing library licenses, additional course materials can be place in e-Reserve in the University/College libraries for use by large enrollment courses.

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5) Faculty Awareness

A communication plan to inform both faculty and students of the advantages available through the use of eTexts should be developed and implemented. eText marketing should be combined with the OER efforts listed in tactic 2.1.1.

1. Each institution identifies an eText/OER Coordinator.
    a. Coordinators collaborate across the state.
2. Create informational materials for dissemination throughout the state.