



ACADEMIC SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ZTC, IMTF, XB12 – An Update

ASCCC OERI Friday Forum; Friday, February 3, 2023; 10:30 am – 11:30 am

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Description

- Is there any new information about the Zero Textbook Cost Program? What happened at the first Instructional Materials Task Force meeting? What does an analysis of the summer 2022 XB12 ([Instructional-Material-Cost section-level data element](#)) data tell us? And how does it all fit together? Join this webinar for an overview of what we know, what we don't know, and what we expect may happen in the future.

Your Presenters

- Lauren McFall, MiraCosta College
- Cristina Moon, Chabot College
- Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative

Overview

- Quick ZTC Update
- Instructional Materials Task Force Update
- XB12 Update
 - Initial system analysis
 - Proposed guidance and identified issues
 - Local challenges and solutions
- What We Don't Know
- The Questions We're Asking

Official ZTC Program Basics

- The July 29, 2022 [Zero Textbook Cost Program – Overview and Guidance](#) memo announced a “Multi-pronged Approach to Implement the ZTC Program”
 1. New Instructional Materials Data Element (XB12)
 2. ZTC Taskforce
 3. ZTC Grants – Phases 1 and 2
- To date, there have been no other system-wide communications specifically about the ZTC Program

What we know...

- There have been no official systemwide communications about the ZTC Program since the July 29 memo. ([Zero Textbook Cost Program – Overview and Guidance](#))
- The memo announced a ZTC Taskforce which we now know is explicitly not about the implementation of the ZTC Program. (IMTF)
- The memo announced the Phase 1 funds (\$20K to all 115 degree granting colleges). (Received!)

The July 29 memo also stated that:

- "The Request for Applications will be released in Fall 2022 through NOVA, and awardees may receive up to \$200,000 for each degree developed and implemented." (Phase 2)
- No, you did not miss it.
- Access all of the ZTC information OERI has compiled at: tinyurl.com/OER4ZTC

Unofficial Communications

- ZTC Office Hours were hosted by the Chancellor's Office and were held through December of 2022.
- Many “regulars” at the office hours – and also a regular stream of people looking for answers.
- Many FAQs – with answers that sometimes varied.
- One of the most common - and impactful ones...

Do all sections of a course in a ZTC pathway have to be ZTC?

- If the answer is yes, what impact would that have?
 - How would you respond?
 - Your union?
 - Your senate?
 - ASCCC?

The Work-Around?

- Transparency – ensure that the student who seeks to complete a ZTC certificate or degree can find those sections
- “All sections” – an aspirational mandate
- Why not?
 - Academic freedom

FAQs with Answers (from legal)

- Are non-CTE certificates eligible for funding?
 - No. CTE certificates are specifically referenced in the legislation.
- Are noncredit CTE certificates eligible for funding?
 - Yes. The legislation does not specify credit or noncredit. There is no basis for excluding noncredit CTE certificates.

2022-23 Student-Centered ZTC Implementation Plan (Consultation Council; 9-15-22)

- **Phase 2:** Expedited ZTC program development and implementation (Total disbursement – \$5 million) — In this competitive request for applications, colleges are encouraged to develop and implement ZTC degree or certificate programs that are close to completion, will be ready for students by Fall 2024, and can be completed with the least amount of funding.
- **Phase 3:** ZTC Implementation for 115 Colleges (Total disbursement \$20.7 million) — Every college that received a Planning grant will receive \$180,000 to develop and implement at least one ZTC program that was identified in Phase 1.
- Subsequent grant phases will be informed by the projects developed, creation and curation of OER for courses and the needs of the district and colleges.

Instructional Materials Task Force Update

- The July 29, 2022 [Zero Textbook Cost Program – Overview and Guidance](#) memo also announced a ZTC Taskforce.
- Today we know that the “ZTC Taskforce” is explicitly not about the implementation of the ZTC Program.
- Equitable Student Experience: Burden-Free Instructional Materials Task Force

ZTC Taskforce - July 29, 2022

Memo

- The Chancellor's Office will convene a ZTC Taskforce in the fall of 2022 to:
 - evaluate the existing infrastructure in place that guides instructional material choices and
 - provide recommendations to structural changes that will facilitate the creation of sustainable solutions that reduce textbook costs for students in the long term.

Specifically, this taskforce will:

1. ...a systemwide approach to alleviate the burdens of accessing textbooks that students currently experience;
2. ...baseline policies and regulations that strengthen equitable access to required instructional materials;
3. ...maximizing, leveraging, or adjusting existing system resources to support a student-centered, ZTC priority;
4. ...establishing a robust and sustained OER support infrastructure; and
5. ...state-level support and resources needed to enhance campus efforts to adopt ZTC policies and practices.

Taskforce to develop recommendations for structural system changes (Consultation Council; 9-15-22)

- The Chancellor's Office will convene a ZTC taskforce of:
 - systemwide representatives,
 - open educational resources partners, and
 - students to evaluate the full existing textbook support infrastructure.
- The taskforce will inform a set of recommendations to address structural changes and system supports that will facilitate the creation of sustainable solutions that reduce textbook costs for all students.
- Goal – May 2023 completion.

The IMTF Today

- First meeting was January 11, 2023
- 2nd meeting scheduled for February 15, 2023
- Extensively supported by Jobs for the Future consultants
- Co-Chairs
 - Michelle Pilati, Project Director, ASCCC OERI; Psychology Faculty, Rio Hondo College (ASCCC Appointee)
 - James Todd, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services, Sierra College (CSSO Appointee)
- Two additional meetings scheduled

IMTF – Not just textbooks

- “Instructional Materials” refers to everything that students must purchase – not just text and supplemental materials (homework systems), but also calculators, uniforms, and all sort of supplies.
- The focus of the IMTF is on making recommendations to get EVERYTHING to zero.
- What kind of costs are we talking about?

XB12 Instructional Materials Cost Section Level Data Element

- Proposed by ASCCC to facilitate impact of OERI
- Data should differentiate between sections:
 - requiring purchase of a textbook or other instructional materials including those requiring purchase of an access code and all instances when a printed resource is required and not provided,
 - that are ZTC due to the use of no-cost OER,
 - that are ZTC but the resources have a cost that is not passed on to students,
 - that use no textbook, and
 - those that are low-cost as defined locally;
- Normal costs, 3 types of ZTC, and low-cost
- What's missing?

XB12 Definitions

- A. Section has no associated instructional material
- B. Section uses only no-cost digital instructional material/~~Section uses only no-cost open educational resources~~
- C. Section has instructional material costs none of which are passed on to students
- D. Section has low instructional material costs (as defined locally)

And sometimes Y

- In this instance, often Y...
- Y = sections requiring purchase of a textbook or other instructional materials including those requiring purchase of an access code and all instances when a printed resource is required and not provided
- Unfortunately, where an additional definition was needed, the existing definition was changed
 - Section uses only no-cost open educational resources
 - Section uses only no-cost digital instructional material
- What did the Summer 2022 data look like?

System-wide ZTC Data Collection is New and Evolving

- System-wide data collection of ZTC section began in Summer 2022 (MIS data element ZB12), following additional state funding for the ZTC Degree Program
 - Through XB12, the CCCCO seeks to gather data course instructional material costs including those that have zero or low-costs, or use digital instructional materials only
- Many colleges that have received funding are in the process of implementing data collection and reporting. Typically, it takes about 2 years of data collection and reporting for the new data element to be reliable.
 - To date, among the 43 ZTC planning and implementation grants awardees, over half have reported 0 ZTC course/sections to MIS.

The analysis of XB12 data...

- ...included in this presentation reflects very early data collection.
 - Findings are preliminary until additional terms of data are available.
 - Because program implementation and data collection/reporting are still in early stages, the data included in this presentation do not show trend or reflect causal relationships between the availability of ZTC courses, student preferences, or their outcomes.

Key Take Aways

- The CCCCO analysis of CSAC SEARS data found that most CCC students spend up to \$1,100 per year on books, supplies, materials, and technology.
 - Total cost of attendance has increased in recent years, likely impacting students' ability to pay for course books and supplies
- In Summer '22, the CCCCO implemented required system-wide reporting of no- and low-cost textbook courses (ZTC), through the XB12 data element. Typically, it takes approximately 2 years for implementation of new data elements and for reliable system-wide data to be available.

Local Challenges and Solutions

- As with the no-cost marking, who does this task belong to?
- Where, when, and how do you gather these data?
- Solutions?
- MiraCosta's approach

Proposed Guidance and Identified Issues

- A - request that the CCCCO clarify that XB12 code A is to be used when a course section has no required ~~instructional materials~~ texts or supplemental resources. (Aligns A with ZTC, course could have required supplies) (Art)
- B – significant change needed - modify the XB12 data element codes to differentiate between those sections that use no-cost OER and those that use other no-cost digital resources
- D - clarify that “low instructional materials costs as defined locally” refers to a locally established cost threshold that must not be exceeded
- Remove all references to “instructional materials” to ensure consistency with ZTC and no-marking

Where do I go to find OER?

- MANY repositories and “referatories”.
- The same resource may be in every place you look – but you can’t tell that it is the same resource.
- Where do you start?

What We Don't Know

- When Phase 2 RFA will be published
- When Phase 3 funds will be disbursed
- Whether ZTC Office Hours will resume
- When we will have answers

The Questions We're Asking

- Have there been communications about the ZTC Program that were not shared broadly that faculty may have missed?
- When will we see an announcement about Phase 2?
- What will the CO be doing to establish that a college is "eligible" for the Phase 3 funds? Will some review of their Plan (developed during Phase 1) be conducted to deem a college eligible? Or is everyone going to receive the full 180K on the same schedule, regardless of having indicated the intent to participate? And when and how will these funds be disbursed?
- What is being done to obtain guidance from the field regarding the future funding phases of the ZTC Program?

What can you do?

- Share your concerns. Faculty should not be the only ones asking questions.
- Continue to move forward with your ZTC/OER efforts.

More Information

- [ASCCC OERI Website](http://asccc-oeri.org) (asccc-oeri.org)
 - Resources
 - Webinars and Events
- [ASCCC OER E-Mail](mailto:oeri@asccc.org) (oeri@asccc.org)
- Resources
 - asccc-oeri.org/oer-and-ztc/