

Remedial Education Presentation Outline

Council of Higher Education
Board of Education
February 26, 1997



Presentation Sections

- Familiar issue in American Higher Education
- Policy statements in Virginia
- SREB 1996 Educational Benchmarks
- Virginia situation
- Outstanding concerns
 - ▶ High School Preparation
 - ▶ Plans of Graduates
 - ▶ English as a Foreign Language
 - ▶ High School Graduates Data

Remedial Education in Historic Context

- Morrill Act of 1862 provided federal support for colleges that served distinctive needs of farmers and "mechanics."
- Harvard University began its freshmen composition course in 1874 in response to faculty dissatisfaction with the writing of upperclassmen.
- The College Entrance Examination Board was established in 1890 in the hope of achieving uniform admissions standards for all American colleges.
- In 1907, one-half of the entering classes at Harvard, Yale, and Columbia Universities failed to meet the colleges' admission standards.
- Community Colleges were created in the 1920's, in part, by four-year colleges and universities as an educational alternative for students needing remedial help.

Remedial Education in Historic Context (*continued*)

- The National Commission on Excellence in Education asserted that the critical question for higher education was how to achieve educational quality without sacrificing access: "The twin goals of equity and high-quality schooling have profound and practical meaning for our economy and society, and we cannot permit one to yield to the other in principle or in practice." (A Nation at Risk, 1983)
- The Commission observed the emergence of an internationally competitive market that placed a premium on highly skilled workers and concluded: "The people of the United States need to know that individuals in our society who do not possess levels of skill, literacy, and training essential to this new era will be effectively disenfranchised, not simply from the material rewards that accompany competent performance, but also from the chance to participate fully in our national life."

Virginia Policy Documents

- Assessment of Remedial Education, 1983
- Joint Task Force on Remediation, 1987
- Commission on the University of the 21st Century
- Virginia Plan
- Chichester Commission Report
- Restructuring Plans

Significant Recommendations of 1983 Task Force

- Definition of remedial education
- Differentiated missions of institutions
- If Institution decides to admit students lacking necessary skills, it should provide necessary support services
- Four-year institutions should establish cooperative arrangements with neighboring community colleges to provide remedial work, so as to keep the remedial work at the senior institutions to a minimum

Significant Recommendations of 1983 Task Force (*continued*)

- Institutions should summarize scores by school district and report results to local school boards or other school officials

1987 Report SCHEV:VCCCS

- Define minimum levels of competence required of a student wishing to do college-level work for degree credit
- Methods and criteria for assessing how much students are learning in remedial programs
- Procedures by which even more of remediation can be undertaken by the community colleges

1992 Virginia Plan

- Senior colleges and universities should adopt tougher admissions standards, and have them fully implemented by 1996.
- Senior institutions should adopt minimum admission standards that correspond to the Advanced Studies Diploma or its equivalent.
- Future students who do not meet these standards should start their college careers in community colleges.

Chichester Commission

- Perhaps no question is more debated among academics and those who care about higher education than whether our colleges and universities still hew to standards as high as those they held several decades ago
 - ▶ the level of preparedness of the incoming student
 - ▶ what the student gains from his or her time on campus

Chichester Commission (Continued)

- The community colleges should be the primary vehicle for delivering remediation, or for providing basic courses for those students who did not follow a college preparatory track.
- Four-year institutions should have only limited remediation efforts that are extremely narrow and focused.

Appropriations Act

- §4-5.10 Remedial Education
- It is the intent of the General Assembly that, to the extent practicable, the senior institutions of higher education should make arrangements with community colleges for the remediation of students accepted for admissions by the senior institutions.

SREB 1996 Educational Benchmarks

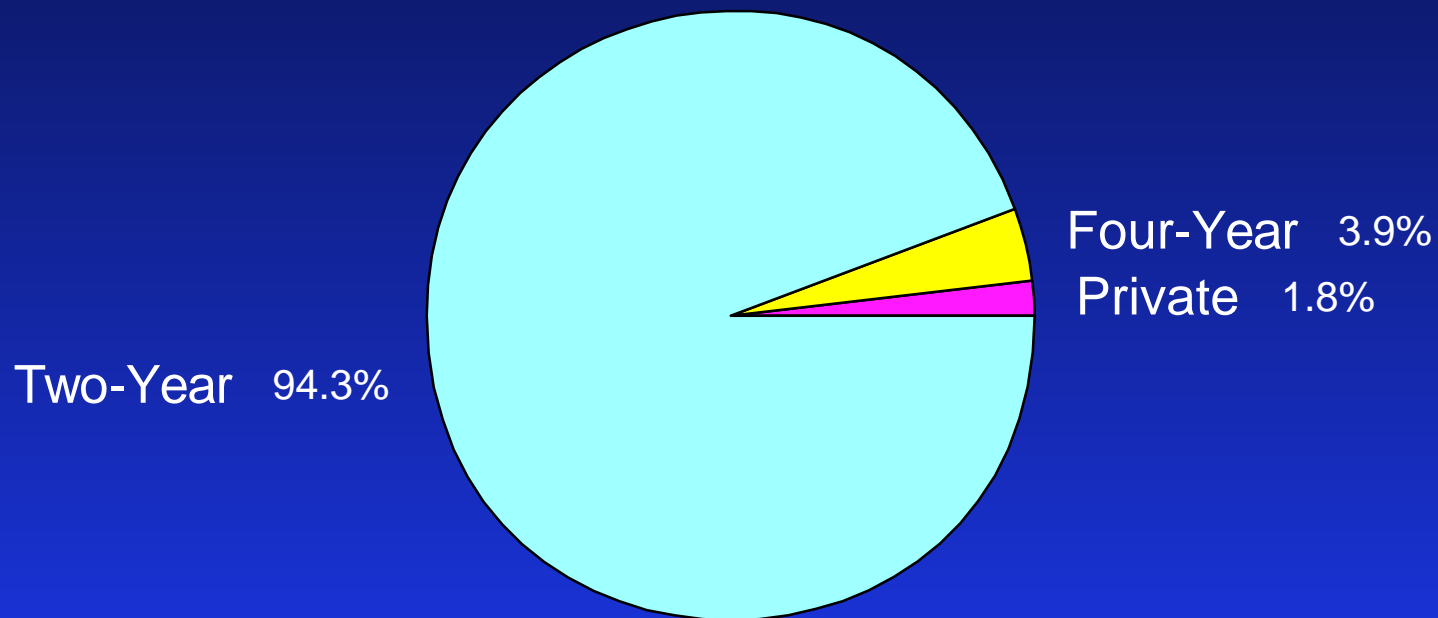
- College Readiness
 - ▶ 20% remediation by 2000
 - ▶ Virginia 22% in 1995
- College Attendance
 - ▶ Meet national average
 - ▶ Virginia already exceeds national averages for associate, BA, and graduate degrees
 - ▶ Virginia economy not focused on the South and dependent upon a highly educated workforce

SCHEV Academic Performance Characteristics Report

- Designed to provide feedback to school districts
- Remediation (22-26%)
- Continuation (83% return in Spring)
- Achievement (45% more than 2.5 GPA)
- Progress toward a degree (25% more than 30 hours)
- Viewed as not very helpful

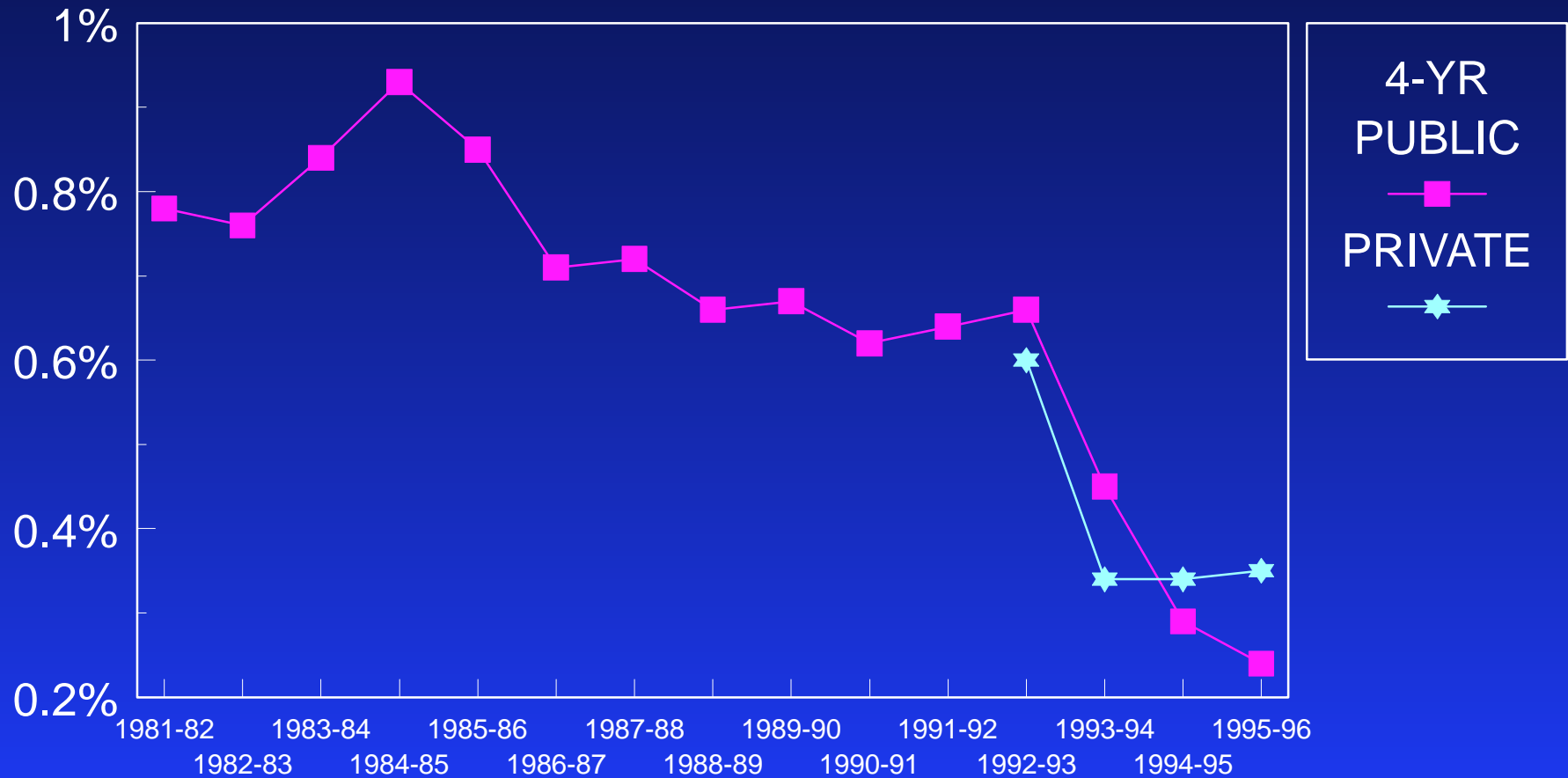
Where is Remediation Taught?

Distribution of Student Credit Hours in Remedial Courses



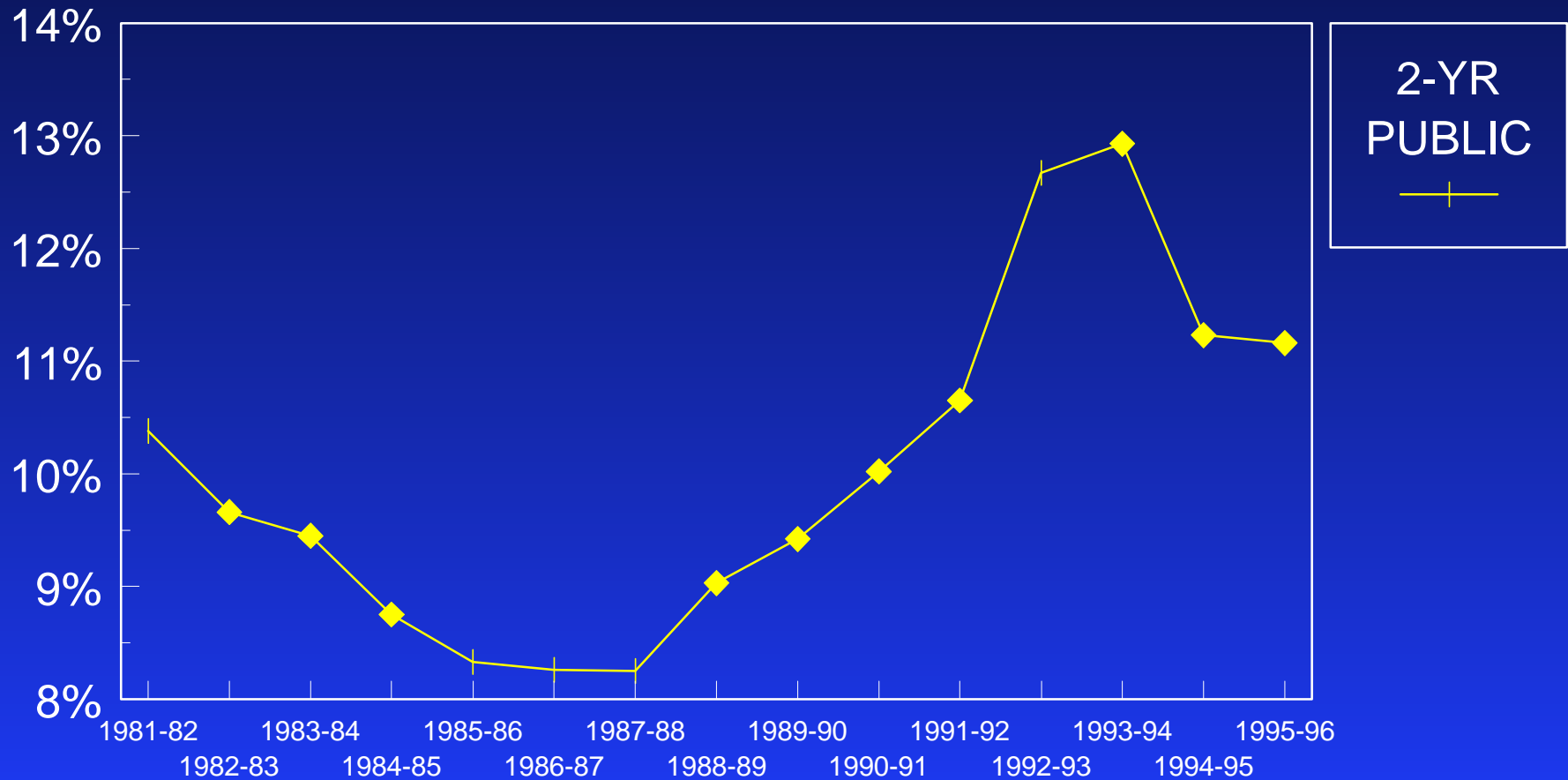
Remediation Enrollments in Virginia, 1981 to 1996

Percent of Credit Hours in Remedial Courses 4-Yr and Private College Rates



Remediation Enrollments in Virginia, 1981 to 1996

Percent of Credit Hours in Remedial Courses
Two-Year College Rates



Outstanding Issues

- High School Preparation
- Plans of Graduates
- English as a Foreign Language
- High School Graduates Data