“Our goal - our primary goal - has to be one offering students a better path to graduation,” Lowenthal said. “It is unacceptable that more than 50 percent of community college students are not graduating or transferring within six years. This bill is the first step toward a refocused community college system that is rededicated to student success and achievement.”

The Student Success Act of 2012 will:

- Restructure the way student support services are delivered to improve the assistance that students receive at the beginning of their educational experience.
- Provide that campuses using an assessment instrument for student placement utilize a statewide system of common assessment once available, to improve consistency and efficiency within the 112-campus system.
- Require colleges receiving student support service funds to post a student success scorecard to clearly communicate progress in improving completion rates for all students and closing the achievement gap among historically under-represented students.
- Require students whose fees are waived because of their economic need to meet minimum academic standards.

SB 1456 is the first step to begin implementation of Student Success Task Force recommendations 2.2 (mandated services), 3.2 (BOG Fee Waiver conditions), and 8.2 (Student Support Initiative). This bill provides a policy framework that targets funding to the core matriculation services of orientation, assessment, counseling and advising, and development of education plans. The bill re-names the Matriculation program as the Student Success and Support Program.

The first Student Success / Matriculation Advisory Committee Meeting was held October 12, 2012 representatives from Admissions, Counseling, Financial Aid, Student Success, Assessment, Transfer, and Achieving the Dream (ATD) and ASO were invited. The meeting was devoted to sharing information concerning AB 2012 and developments and impact to Student Services programs and students. The Admissions office shared that the District will have a mechanism in place to address Priority Registration. Financial Aid is now offering Counselor led Educational Planning workshops. The Transfer Center has developed Transfer Workshops committed to transfer and transfer preparation.

The Student Success Matriculation Program Academic Support Sub-Committee is providing a Pre-Assessment Program which offers Pre-Assessment information, Assessment, and Skill Building Academic Support courses. “New Student Workshop” is being held to capture students attention and provide information on College Strategies for success. There was discussion about including AB 1456 information for students in the “ATD Kick-off” day activities. Additionally, information was shared about accessing more information through the developer of the “Equity Score–Card” and the use of the “transfer Equivalency system”. We plan to meet each month to review updates and developments to AB 1456 and to further discuss implementation of state and District policies here at WEST.