



High School Graduation and Endorsed Diplomas in Colorado



A Mastery Minded Approach

Colorado's High School Academic Student Performance

| NAEP Achievement: 8th grade Reading | % of CO students performing at or above Proficient level | | | CSAP: 10th grade Reading | % of CO students performing at or above Proficient level | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|--|---|-------------|-------------|
| | 2005 | 2007 | 2009 | | 2007 | 2009 | 2011 |
| All students | 32 | 35 | 32 | All students | 69 | 69 | 65 |
| White | 40 | 43 | 41 | White | 79 | 79 | 75 |
| Black, non Hispanic | 18 | 18 | 15 | Black, non Hispanic | 50 | 53 | 45 |
| Hispanic | 15 | 17 | 16 | Hispanic | 46 | 49 | 48 |
| Economically Disad. | 15 | 18 | 16 | Economically Disad. | 46 | 49 | 47 |
| Limited English Prof. | 5 | 3 | 3 | Limited English Prof. | 18 | 17 | 14 |
| NAEP Achievement: 8th grade Math | % of CO students performing at or above Proficient level | | | CSAP: 10th grade Math | % of CO students performing at or above Proficient level | | |
| | 2005 | 2007 | 2009 | | 2007 | 2009 | 2011 |
| All students | 32 | 37 | 40 | All students | 30 | 30 | 32 |
| White | 43 | 48 | 51 | White | 39 | 39 | 41 |
| Black, non Hispanic | 11 | 21 | 16 | Black, non Hispanic | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Hispanic | 10 | 13 | 18 | Hispanic | 11 | 11 | 15 |
| Economically Disad. | 13 | 17 | 19 | Economically Disad. | 11 | 11 | 15 |
| Limited English Prof. | 5 | 3 | 4 | Limited English Prof. | 5 | 4 | 4 |



Colorado's Graduation and College Enrollment Rates

| | % of Colorado High School Students from the graduating class of: | |
|---|---|------|
| | 2009 | 2010 |
| CO High School Graduation Rate | 75 | 72 |
| College Enrollment Rate (only in CO) | 48 | 54 |
| College Enrollment Rate (both in & out of CO) | 65 | - |
| Reading Remediation (2 year colleges) | 35 | 33 |
| Reading Remediation (4 year colleges) | 6 | 6 |
| Math Remediation (2 year colleges) | 52 | 53 |
| Math Remediation (4 year colleges) | 15 | 19 |



- ▶ 178 school districts have 178 graduation requirements, and schools want to see their student's graduate with a diploma that has more meaning.



- ▶ By June 2015, Colorado will begin an endorsed diploma option permitting students automatic admission into moderately selective Colorado colleges based on mastery in a few subjects without the need for remediation.
- ▶ By May 2013, the State Board of Education will adopt graduation guidelines which all districts will need to meet or exceed.





PWR Endorsed Diploma Update

Purpose of the Endorsed Diploma

- ▶ Reward high school graduates for excellence by guaranteeing that the student:
 - ▶ Meets minimum academic qualifications for admission to all open, modified open or moderately selective public institutions of higher education in Colorado
 - ▶ Receives priority consideration for admissions into Colorado's selective and highly selective institutions.



Endorsed Diploma Criteria

- Step 1. Student demonstrates no need for remediation in math and English language arts
- Step 2. Student demonstrates mastery in 3 academic content areas (B or better/ meets performance)
- Step 3. Student demonstrates application of 21st century skills
- Step 4. Student completes ICAP



Step 1: Student demonstrates no need for remediation in math and English

| Existing HEAR and Alternatives | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | English | Mathematics | Social Science | Natural/Physical Science | Foreign Language | Electives |
| HEAR (Academic course units must total 17) | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Remedial | ACT: Writing: 18 Reading: 17 SAT: Writing: 440 Reading: 430 Accuplacer: Sent Skills 95 Rdg Comp 80 | ACT: 19 SAT: 470 Accuplacer: Intermediate Algebra 85 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Course Equivalent | ENG 090 = 4 years | MAT 090 = 3 years MAT 106 = 4 years | N/A | N/A | ACTFL = Novice-Mid | N/A |
| Course Completion Examples* | ENG 121 | MAT 120 | PSY 101 HIS 101 | BIO 111 | SPA 101 FRE 111 | Combination |

Step 2: Student Demonstrates Mastery of Academic Content in 3 Content Areas

- ▶ 1) Reading, Writing, and Communicating *
- ▶ 2) Mathematics *
- ▶ 3) Social and Behavioral Sciences
- ▶ 4) Natural and Physical Sciences
- ▶ 5) Arts and Humanities
- ▶ 6) World Languages
- ▶ 7) Career and Technical Education



* 4 years of HS study and with no need for remediation



Step 2 Example: Demonstrate mastery in Natural and Physical Sciences

- ▶ In high school courses:
 - ▶ Receive a course grade of B or better in at least four science courses
 - ▶ 3 of which must be laboratory-based
 - ▶ Must include biology, chemistry, and physics.

- ▶ Via other performance indicators:
 - ▶ Advanced score on state assessment in Science
 - ▶ AP score of 4 or 5 in AP Bio, Physics, Chem, Enviro, or Computer Science.
 - ▶ IB Science test score of 4 +
 - ▶ ACT Science score of 24 +

OR..

- ▶ In postsecondary credit-bearing coursework with lab
 - ▶ Must receive grade of B or better.



Step 3: Student Applies 21st Century Skills

On **academic** coursework, state assessment scores, or achievements:

- ▶ Critical Thinking
- ▶ Information Literacy
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Self Direction
- ▶ Invention

AND...

By excelling in at least one of the following **extra-curricular** activities:

- ▶ School Activities
- ▶ Business or Employment
- ▶ Volunteer Activities



Step 4: Student Completes Key Components of an ICAP



- ▶ Career Plan and Goals
- ▶ Work Experience
- ▶ Academic Progress
- ▶ College Exploration and Applications
- ▶ Progress in Financial Literacy and College Finances

PWR Endorsed Diploma Timeline

- ▶ **August 2011** PWR Endorsed Diploma Task Force begins
- ▶ **December 2011** PWR Endorsed Diploma Task Force recommends criteria
- ▶ **January 2012** Criteria vetted with various stakeholder groups including: business, workforce, admissions directors, academic officers, superintendents, local school board members, principals and educators
- ▶ **Jan-June 2012** DHE disseminates criteria to all higher education governing boards to solicit feedback and approval of PWR endorsed diploma criteria. To date, received approval from all institutes of higher education.

PWR Endorsed Diploma Next Steps

- ▶ **August 2012** Begin pilots in urban, rural, suburban and charter high schools
- ▶ **June 2015** Colorado institutes of higher education begin accepting students based on these criteria





Graduation Guideline Update...

Graduation Guidelines Timeline

- ▶ **May 2007** Passage of HB 1118 : High School Graduation Guidelines
- ▶ **June 2008** Graduation Guidelines Development Council makes recommendations



- write new standards
- build 21st century skills
- **build assessment system which demonstrates mastery**
- advance dual credits/concurrent enrollment
- **adopt multiple pathways in high school**
- establish career planning tools
- **align higher education system to new standards**
- **align college admissions policies to mastery based system of graduation**

Graduation Guidelines Cont'd

- ▶ **Oct. 2008** Move back deadline for HB 1118 until new standards are written
- ▶ **May 2011** Conduct national research and state-wide survey on current high school graduation policies
- ▶ **Aug 2011** Statewide conversations in a series of 7 focus groups to provide initial feedback on several options to assist in the development of the graduation guidelines
- ▶ **Oct 2011** SBE decides to delay December 2011 HB-1118 deadline to explore mastery based graduation options.



Graduation Guidelines Cont'd

- ▶ **June 2012** Reconvene Graduation Guidelines Development Council for monthly advice.
- ▶ **July 2012-
Mar 2013** On-going outreach to public and educators for feedback
- ▶ **May 2013** SBE adopts high school graduation guidelines
- ▶ **2013-2014** Districts develop their graduation requirements from these guidelines
- ▶ **2014-2015** Districts implement these graduation guidelines for 9th graders.



Guiding Principles of new High School Graduation Requirements - **DRAFT**

- ▶ **Create a meaningful high school diploma:**

- ▶ Students should demonstrate that they have met minimum exit criteria signaling mastery of skills and knowledge necessary to be:
A successful citizen, a valued first-year employee, admitted into a 2 year college with no need for remediation, competitive for admission to a 4 year college, and eligible to pursue an endorsed diploma

- ▶ **Student ownership:**

- ▶ Students should understand how the coursework and experiences they select to participate in align with their career goals.

- ▶ **Flexibility:**

- ▶ Students should have multiple, equally rigorous and valued pathways to meaningful careers and post secondary education.



Proposed Criteria for CO High School Graduation Requirements

- ▶ Student must demonstrate mastery of the following academic content areas:
 - ▶ Reading, Writing and Communicating; Mathematics; Social Studies; Science; **and at least one other content area** (comprehensive health, dance, drama and theater arts, music, physical education, visual arts, and/or world languages);
- ▶ Demonstrate mastery of the following 21st century learning skills:
 - ▶ Critical thinking and reasoning; information literacy; collaboration; self-direction; and invention
- ▶ Complete key components of ICAP



Research to Better Determine New Graduation Guidelines

- ▶ How have Colorado students performed on the following assessments and coursework?
 - ▶ CSAP and ACT
 - ▶ AP courses
 - ▶ Concurrent enrollment courses
 - ▶ Completion of or concentration in a CTE program
- ▶ What does a “successful Colorado college student” look like?
 - ▶ Requires no remediation; enters college within 18 months of high school graduation; persists in college for at least 1 year
- ▶ Using current Colorado workforce data identify what a “valuable first year employee” looks like.
- ▶ How do these successful Colorado college students and valuable first year employees compare to the rest of Colorado students on assessments?
- ▶ What are other states/countries cut scores and proxies for mastery?



Timeline – CAP4K Implementation

2012-13

- Spring 2012 -PWR Endorsed Diploma approved by IHE
- Fall 2012 - Educator Prep. Program Revision completed
- Fall 2012 PWR Endorsed Diploma Year 1 Pilot

2013-14

- May 2013 - SBE adopts graduation guidelines
- Summer 2013 - CCHE adopts revised HEAR
- Fall 2013- PWR Endorsed Diploma Year 2 Pilot
- Fall 2013- New P-12 assessments administered in Science and Social Studies

2014-15

- Fall 2014 - graduation requirements implemented for 9th graders
- Fall 2014 - new admission and remedial policies implemented
- Fall 2014 - PWR Endorsed Diploma Year 3 Pilot

2015-16

- Fall 2015-
 - State-wide implementation of PWR Endorsed Diploma