

**Colorado Department of Education  
Colorado's Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act, SB08-212 (CAP4K)**

**Bill Summary and Accomplishments - January 2012**

**Purpose:** Align Colorado's educational system from pre-K to college to focus on the readiness of all children at key transition points and prepare them for postsecondary and workforce readiness. Students that graduate from high school "ready by exit" are prepared for a successful college education or productive workforce experience in Colorado.

**Step 1:** Create descriptions for "school readiness," "21st century skills" and "postsecondary and workforce readiness".

- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.08 – State Board of Education adopts "school readiness" description.
  - 12.15.09 – State Board of Education and Colorado Commission of Higher Education adopt "postsecondary and workforce readiness" description.

✓ **Outcome: successfully completed on time – School Readiness defined on 12.11.08 and PWR defined on 06.30.09**

**Step 2:** Expand and refine model content standards from preschool through high school.

- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.09 – State Board of Education adopts revised preschool through postsecondary standards.

✓ **Outcome: successfully completed on time – 12.10.09**

**Step 3:** Realign assessments with those standards.

- New system shall include postsecondary and workforce readiness assessments, school readiness assessments and measure the new Colorado Academic Standards. Within two years of assessment system adoption assessment is to begin.
- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.10 – State Board of Education adopts revised assessment system attributes.
  - 3.15.14 – Local education providers administer adopted postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation and readiness assessments 3-11<sup>th</sup> grade.

✓ **Outcome: successfully completed on time – 12.06.10  
Implementation (Spring 2014)**

**Step 4:** Local school boards assure that local standards meet or exceed state standards.

- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.11 – Local school boards revise local standards and curricula to align with state standards.
- **Status Update: In progress and expected to meet deadline**
  - CDE is providing online and in-person professional development support for local review process; gap analysis tools; facilitation of cross-district collaboration. In addition, CDE will provide professional development and support for designing standards and instruction focused on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and postsecondary and workforce readiness in the coming year.

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**Step 5:** Recognize that State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education are to adopt jointly high school diploma endorsement criteria indicating a student's level of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR). A PWR endorsed diploma identifies student excellence over and above a standard high school diploma. It signifies a student has thoughtfully planned for post-high school life, and is academically prepared for credit-bearing 100-level postsecondary coursework without the need for remediation.

- **Deadlines:**
  - Moved to April 2012- State Board of Education and Colorado Commission on Higher Education adopts endorsed diploma criteria
- **Status Update: In progress by April 2012**

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**Step 6:** Review and update higher education expectations, admission policies, and teacher preparation programs align with the revised K-12 system and expectations.

- **Deadline:** 12.15.14
- **Status Update: Initial analysis underway and on schedule**

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**Step 7:** Local districts implement School Readiness Assessments and create individualized Readiness Plans.

- **Deadline:** Fall Semester 2013
  - **Status Update: Planning underway and on schedule**
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