



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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S.B. 08-212 “Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment” Implementation Update

The “Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act” (sometimes called the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids, or CAP4K) was enacted this year with ambitious goals. It requires the leadership of Colorado’s P-12 schools and its postsecondary institutions to establish a workable pathway from preschool into college or the workplace. Essential to that pathway is an understanding of what it means to be postsecondary and workforce ready and, with that in mind, to ensure that students not only take certain courses but actually master the content.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) are required to jointly develop an agreed-upon description of “postsecondary and workforce readiness” by December 2009. The description in turn will be the basis for the standards for school districts to meet and for the tools to assess whether the standards have been met. In short, the description we come up with over the next 12 months will guide education in this state for the foreseeable future.

CDE and DHE are currently holding meetings across the state to gain input and advice from educators, students, parents, business people, community leaders and interested citizens on how best to describe what it means to be postsecondary and workforce ready. What skills and competencies do students need to be workforce ready? What skills and competencies do students need to be postsecondary ready? Are there special considerations for the workforce or higher education in different regions of the state?

To date:

- CDE and DHE together have
 - researched postsecondary and workforce readiness descriptions through two regional, co-convened meetings in Gunnison and Colorado Springs, and
 - participated in joint biweekly planning meetings regarding SB08-212.
- CDE has
 - solicited federal and international readiness sources for feedback and designs;
 - traveled to 13 Colorado cities for evening town meetings;
 - surveyed the state for ideas and discussion;
 - met eight times with P-20 Council and subcommittees on preschool and kindergarten issues and input on definition of readiness;
 - presented draft to state groups; and
 - presented to the State Board of Education (November 2008) the final recommendation and public hearing for December adoption.
- DHE has
 - researched postsecondary and workforce readiness descriptions through its annual Faculty-to-Faculty Conference held October 10, 2008;
 - briefed the Governor’s P-20 Council and its subcommittees on the progress of SB08-212; and