



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Higher Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### State remedial rate drops 3 percentage points for second year in a row

**DENVER - June 4, 2015** - The number of Colorado high school graduates needing remediation when they entered college dropped 3 percentage points in 2013-2014 over the previous year and a total of 6 percentage points in the past two years, according to this year's remedial report.

The drop likely reflects the impact of a variety of innovative initiatives, including: concurrent enrollment, which allows high school students to earn college credit while still in high school; educational reforms at the K-12 level and alignment of key initiatives through postsecondary; and a major overhaul of developmental education programs at the Colorado Community College System, which provides alternatives to remediation that still give students the support they need to succeed.

Students funneled into non-credit bearing remedial courses, for which students usually have to pay out of their own pockets, have far lower completion rates than those students not required to take a remedial course. Hispanic, African America and low-income students are disproportionately represented as needing remediation.

"We are celebrating the second year in a row of a drop in the number of Colorado students who need remedial courses," said Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. "We all look at the state's remedial rate as a key indicator to how well Colorado is preparing our students for college and career. We are still not where we need - or want - to be, but we are heading in the right direction."

#### Other report highlights:

- Overall, the percentage of the 2013 high school graduates placed into remediation in at least one subject was 34.2 percent, an improvement from the previous year of 37 percent.
- Of the 23,490 high school graduates who matriculated to college in Colorado, 6,926 students were not college ready and required at least one remedial course.
- About 36 percent of college female students were not college ready compared to 31 percent of college matriculated males.
- Eighty percent of black, non-Hispanic students at two-year colleges and 50 percent of such students at four-year institutions were not ready for college level courses.

- Almost 69 percent of Hispanic students enrolled at a two-year college required remedial education compared to 36 percent at four-year institutions.
- Fifty-one percent of free and reduced lunch participants were not college ready compared to 28 percent of non-FRL students who were not college ready.
- When examining remediation by subject, most students required remediation in mathematics, followed by writing and then reading.
- At the four-year level, the retention rate for students not assigned to remediation was 77 percent, compared to 61 percent for those needing remediation.
- Approximately 62 percent of all remedial courses were completed successfully, the same rate as the previous year.
- Combined, the estimated cost to the state and estimated tuition cost to the student for remedial courses amount to approximately \$47.1 million. This is a \$9 million savings from last year due to fewer students taking remedial courses and fewer courses being offered.

For the first time, this year's report also includes data on the state's Supplemental Academic Instruction policy, which allows institutions of higher education to offer credit-bearing labs and other learning opportunities to students who may be on the edge of needing a remedial course.

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has set a primary performance goal of increasing the number of residents aged 25-34 who hold a high-quality, postsecondary credential to 66 percent. In order to reach this goal, and for Colorado to have an educated workforce to fill the 74 percent of jobs that will require a college degree by 2020, nearly all college students must be successful and earn a certificate or degree.

Find the full report at:

[http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Remedial/FY2014/2014\\_Remedial\\_reJJu ne03.pdf](http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Remedial/FY2014/2014_Remedial_reJJu ne03.pdf)

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