

## SECTION I

### PART N SERVICE AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR COLORADO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

#### 1.00 INTRODUCTION AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-109(2) requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to define the geographic and programmatic service areas for Colorado public institutions of higher education:

*The commission shall define, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions, the geographic and programmatic service areas for each state-supported institution of higher education. No such institution shall provide instruction off-campus in programs or in geographic areas or at sites not approved by the commission, unless otherwise provided by law.*

#### 2.00 GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Commission Intent.** The Commission is committed to ensuring maximum opportunities for institutions of higher education to address workforce demands, serve local needs, and provide innovative approaches to educating Colorado's students. Additionally, the Commission expects institutions of higher education will work collaboratively to ensure the needs of the state and its students are met.

**Role and Mission.** Institutions of higher education shall operate educational programs pursuant to their statutory role and mission, as described in C.R.S. §23, Articles 20-71.

**Alignment with state, local, and federal policies.** Institutions of higher education shall be subject to CCHE, state, local and federal policies regarding tuition setting and state allocation of general fund resources. This is inclusive of capital resources, College Opportunity Fund eligibility, state financial aid allocation, concurrent enrollment programs, and ordinances that establish local taxing districts.

**Transmittal of Collaborative Partnerships to the Department.** Institutions of higher education that have established or create cooperative agreements, or enter into memoranda of understanding for a collaborative approach to addressing student opportunity or regional needs, shall transmit copies of those agreements to the Department of Higher Education within 30 days of execution, or 30 days following CCHE approval of this policy, whichever is sooner.



### **3.00 SERVICE AREA DESIGNATIONS**

To the extent practical, service area designations shall be determined by the local or system governing board of the institution(s), as long as the institution(s) are operating within their statutory role and mission pursuant to C.R.S. §23. Disputes over the provision of educational programming shall be resolved at the institution or governing board level; if resolution cannot be reached, institutions shall defer to CCHE Policy I-K (Policies and Procedures for Resolution of Disputes Among Public Institutions of Higher Education).

- 3.01** For institutions offering Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, using Perkins dollars, or otherwise subject to federal rules, authorization for service shall continue to be managed through the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE), which shall consider duplication of programs, market demand and alignment with USDOL requirements.
- 3.02** For all institutions with a four-year and graduate-level statutory role and mission, the service area for baccalaureate and graduate programs is the entire state of Colorado, as long as a program is within an institution's statutory role and mission.
- 3.03** In cases where it is assessed that community or regional educational demand is not being met (including serving local education providers for concurrent enrollment programs, associate degree educational offerings and CTE programs), the CCHE shall invite institutions of higher education to propose educational programming in that region, that aligns with the institution's statutory role and mission. If the institution(s) chooses not to respond or the invitation is otherwise unsuccessful, the CCHE shall assign an institution of higher education to provide educational programming in that region.
- 3.04** Similarly, institutions that wish to offer programs in areas of the state that traditionally and historically have been served by a local college or university have a primary obligation to explore opportunities for collaboration with that college or university. If collaboration is determined by the two institutions to be impractical or not feasible, the institution wishing to offer programs within its statutory role and mission may move forward. Institutions that are unable to resolve disputes over provision of educational programming may utilize CCHE Policy I-K (Policies and Procedures for Resolution of Disputes Among Public Institutions of Higher Education).

### **4.00 CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS**

House Bill 18-1052 established a process (§23-1-109(6), C.R.S.) to facilitate local education provider participation in a Concurrent Enrollment course or program, pursuant to §22-35-101, C.R.S., with an institution of higher education. The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Education, will maintain, and annually update, a list of local educational providers and institutional primary partnerships, as provided through the annual submission of cooperative agreements.

The Department shall publish a process through which a local education provider and an institution can resolve conflicts in or seek exceptions to the provision of concurrent enrollment programs or courses.

HISTORY: January 1986; May 1987; March 1988; December 1992; September 1994; May 1995; CCHE Agenda 10/5/95 Item III, D; CCHE Agenda 9/12/17 Item IV, A; CCHE Agenda 10/23/17 Item V, D; CCHE Agenda 10/22/2018 Item V, A; CCHE Agenda 9/5/2019 Item IV, F; CCHE Agenda 6/3/2022 Item IV, A; CCHE Agenda 7/29/2022 Item III, A.