

# SB08-212: CAP4K

## An Overview

2008 Annual

Faculty-to-Faculty Conference

October 10, 2008

Sheraton Denver Tech Center

Colorado Department of Higher Education

# National and International Perspectives

We report to the American people that while we can take justifiable pride in what our schools and colleges have historically accomplished and contributed to the United States and the well-being of its people, the educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a Nation and a people. What was unimaginable a generation ago has begun to occur—others are matching and surpassing our educational attainments.

*From A Nation at Risk, c. 1983*

If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war.

*From A Nation at Risk*

- International comparisons of student achievement, completed a decade ago, reveal that on 19 academic tests American students were never first or second and, in comparison with other industrialized nations, were last seven times.
- Some 23 million American adults are functionally illiterate by the simplest tests of everyday reading, writing, and comprehension.
- About 13 percent of all 17-year-olds in the United States can be considered functionally illiterate. Functional illiteracy among minority youth may run as high as 40 percent.

## **Recommendation A: Content**

**We recommend** that State and local high school graduation requirements be strengthened and that, at a minimum, all students seeking a diploma be required to lay foundations in the Five New Basics by taking the following curriculum during their 4 years of high school:

- a) 4 years of English;
- b) 3 years of mathematics;
- c) 3 years of science;
- d) 3 years of social studies; and
- e) one-half year of computer science.

*For the college-bound, 2 years of foreign language in high school are strongly recommended in addition to those taken earlier.*

## Colorado's Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR)

Academic Area*	2008/2009 Graduates	2010+ Graduates
English**	4 years	4 years
Mathematics (Must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or equivalents)***	3 years	4 years
Natural/Physical Sciences (two units must be lab-based)***	3 years	3 years
Social Sciences (at least one unit of US or world history)	3 years	3 years
Foreign Language	Not required	1 year
Academic Electives****	2 years	2 years

## **Recommendation B: Standards & Expectations**

**We recommend** *that schools, colleges, and universities adopt more rigorous and measurable standards, and higher expectations, for academic performance and student conduct, and that 4-year colleges and universities raise their requirements for admission. This will help students do their best educationally with challenging materials in an environment that supports learning and authentic accomplishment.*

## **Colorado Model Content Standards, current**

- Civics
- Dance
- Economics
- Foreign Language
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics\*
- Music
- Physical Education
- Reading and Writing\*
- Science\*
- Theatre
- Visual Arts

# Current National and State Policy Context

## National Context

If people begin to see the educational system as a single entity through which people move, they may begin to behave as if all of education were related.

**Harold L. Hodgkinson. *All One System: Demographics of Education*. Washington, D.C.: Institute for Educational Leadership, 1985.**

# National Context

## National Governor's Association

Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on [key federal issues](#) to developing [policy reports](#) on innovative state programs and hosting networking seminars for state government executive branch officials. The [NGA Center for Best Practices](#) focuses on state innovations and best practices on issues that range from education and health to technology, welfare reform, and the environment. NGA also provides management and technical assistance to both new and incumbent governors. (<http://www.nga.org/>)

## National Context

### ACHIEVE'S American Diploma Project

The American Diploma Project (ADP) is a multi-state effort directed by ACHIEVE, a national education collaborative created by the nation's governors and business leaders with the primary goal of helping states prepare all young people for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship by raising academic standards and achievement in America's schools. ACHIEVE and its ADP project is fully supported by The Education Trust (EdTrust) and the National Governor's Association (NGA).

Although participation in the ADP Network requires commitment to a common policy agenda, it does not require a one-size-fits-all approach. States are expected and encouraged to take different approaches to address this agenda. (<http://www.achieve.org/>)

# National Context

## ADP Goals

- Align high school standards and assessments with the knowledge and skills required for success in postsecondary education and work;
- Administer a college- and work-ready assessment, aligned to state standards;
- Require all students to take a college- and work-ready curriculum to earn a high school diploma;
- Hold high schools accountable for graduating students who are college-ready;
- Hold postsecondary institutions accountable for their success once enrolled.

(<http://www.achieve.org/>)

# National Context

## Other National Reports

- Adelman, C., *The Toolbox Series*
- ACT
  - *Crisis at the Core: Preparing All students for College and Work;*
  - *Aligning Postsecondary Expectations and High School Practice: The Gap Defined;*
  - *Rigor at Risk: Reaffirming Quality in the High School Core Curriculum.*
- Others

## National Context

### National Snapshot of P-16/20 Councils

P-16 and P-20 councils:

- 40 councils nationwide
- 38 states have at least one council
- Up from the 25 councils that existed around the nation in 2000

## State Context

### Colorado's P-20 Council:

#### *Sub-Committees:*

- Data and Accountability
- Preparation and Transition
- Systems Transformation
- P-3
- Educator

## Intersections

- National Context
- State Context
- Governor Ritter's P-20 Council and Sub-Committees
- SB08-212(CAP4K)