

SB08-212: Colorado's Alignment Bill
Co-convened Regional Meeting: Colorado Springs, CO
December 3, 2008

NOTES – RAW DATA

Guiding Question #3 – Are there special considerations for the workforce or higher education in your region of the state?

Responses:

- Court systems (“ed through criminal justice”)
- Rural areas (whole host of problems)
- Lax requirements for promotion
- High tech urban areas
- Parental education in these areas
- Business / professional involvement – educational process
- High tech skills
- Diversity of people & language
- Government STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) & research
- Disability education
- Under-participation in Higher Ed
- Opportunities to learn in rural districts
- Need for tech savvy workforce
- Need for highly qualified and competent teachers
- Discrepancy between rural and urban needs
- Poor state support of Higher Ed
- Opportunities to learn / Military
- Highly qualified teachers / need for Special Ed
- Tech savvy workforce
- Engineering needs (STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Wide diversity across area – rural to suburban
- Less funding for Higher Ed in Colorado
- Dependence on tuition
- Unable to accommodate students / workers with disabilities
- Market / availability of loans / grants for students
- Disparity of resources
- Internationally benchmarked
- Sustainability
- Tourism
- Military
- Transient population
- High tech fields

- Aerospace installations
- Science
- Non-profit skills / appreciation
- Outsourcing
- Financing for state education
- Creating stronger economic development environment
- Innovation / creativity
- Financial aid
- Anti- government / fiscal conservation
- Consistency in all districts and schools / efforts to access programs
- Cost to educate: size, districts, and locations
- Community demographics
- Hospitality as an area economic focus
- Economic success locally and statewide
- Responsible citizenship
- Kids in cracks / transition from courts to public education
- Disparity of resources
- Sustainability
- Geographical awareness
- Foreign language skills
- Understanding how taxes ensure a better quality of life for all and some upward social economic mobility for the poorest
- Support for public education
- Higher salaries for teachers and respect for learning
- Moving family from survival into involvement
- Minority consideration for alternative programs
- Poor involvement of private sector
- No standard requirement to motivate continuous educators
- Teachers / educators not meeting same requirements
- Water issues
- Unemployment rates
- Service industry focus
- High tech companies do not stay due to lack of diversity
- A lot of districts
- Racial parity
- Lack of diversity
- ESL
- Digital divide
- Disparity of resources at all levels
- Not site-based decisions → different curriculum
- Less school districts
- 1 school district for state and 1 for Denver

- Department of Corrections: support services for employees and employee families
- Foster care
- Internationally competitive
- Parenting skills
- Thinking beyond local job opportunities: prep for global opportunities
- Military: transitions and moving around
- Resources and programs to assist students in seeing / believing options and alternatives beyond what a local economy / small rural area provides.
- Need more technical / VOC program options for students
- Green technology / renewable energy
- Sustainable agriculture
- Higher level math
- Visionary leaders
- Offering technology training that meets business needs
- Students with learning disabilities
- Urban drop-outs
- Religious and home school education
- Gap in student documentation
- Socio-economic segregation
- Lots of students through criminal/ court system
- Environmental stewardship
- International benchmark
- Low pay
- Government services
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- New fields: if cyber command comes to Colorado Springs –need college to lead in assurance training and skills
- Space technology due to high level of space-related contracts
- Tourism industry: need hospitality and human services
- SES (socio-economic status) – segregated throughout region
- Economy: wait list for services
- Special education: students / laws
- Children entering school below grade level
- Higher education match to workforce needs
- Cyber command, homeland security
- Language diversity / cultural diversity
- Education track
- Low pay in entry jobs
- Link between environment and economy
- Adapt to student learning style (technology)
- Need to educate parents / educate first generation families
- Limited resources

- Dealing with military population
- Community disinclined to support public institutions
- Lowest funded public education system
- Politically active area
- Engineering
- Medical / nursing
- Salaries for educators vs. technical filling positions in remote areas
- Lack of transportation system
- High school: how do we get them to stay
- High mobility
- Non-traditional student
- Teacher training for workforce
- Certified students for wind and urban technology
- High need kids due to military
- Need for special need teachers impacted by the military
- Education for all educators (teachers / admin)
- Early childhood education
- Expansion of service to meet the need to military families
- Anti-government hurts public schools
- Monies for technology in academics
- Monies to hire faculty at competitive wages
- Special monies for developmentally disabled