

THEMES

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

• **Academics / Education**

- Education track (4)
- Religious and home school education (4)
- Sustainability (3)
- Unable to accommodate for disabilities (3)
- Responsible Citizenship (5)
- Offer technology training that meets business needs
- Higher education match to workforce needs
- Business/professional involvement – educational process
- Community disinclined to support public institutions
- High School: how do we get them to stay
- Need to educate parents
- Need to educate first generation families
- Consistency in all districts and schools/efforts to access programs
- Early childhood education
- Education for all educators (teachers/admin)
- Higher qualified teachers
- Teacher training for workforce
- Teachers/educators not meeting same requirements
- Need for high qualified and competent teachers
- No standard requirement to motivate continuous educators
- Urban dropouts
- ESL
- Foreign language skills
- Students with learning disabilities
- Disability education
- Need for Special Ed
- Higher level math
- Science
- Medical/Nursing
- Need more technical/VOC program options for students
- Minority considerations for alternative programs
- Non-traditional student
- Not site-based decisions – different curriculum
- Children entering school below grade level
- Opportunities to learn/military
- Opportunities to learn in rural districts
- Resources and programs to assist students in seeing/believing options and alternatives beyond what a local economy/small rural area provides
- Support for public education
- Innovation/creativity
- Adapt to student learning style (technology)

- Monies for technology in academics
- Lowest funded public education system
- Financial aid
- Higher salaries for teachers and respect for learning
- Monies to hire faculty at competitive wages
- Financing for state education
- Less funding for higher ed in Colorado
- Cost to educate: size districts, and locations
- Dependence on tuition
- Poor state support of higher ed
- A lot of districts / Less school districts
- Gap in student documentation ???
- Racial parity [inequities in access and opportunities?]
- Special monies for developmentally disabled
- Unable to accommodate students/workers with disabilities

- **Economy / Business Issues**

- Sustainability (3)
- Responsible Citizenship (5)
- International benchmark or competitor (2)
- Environment and Economy (3)
- Government STEM & Research (6)
- High-tech skills (7)
- Low pay for entry jobs (2)
- Tourism (2)
- Creating stronger economic development environment
- Economic success locally and statewide
- Thinking beyond local job opportunities: prep for global opportunities
- Economy: wait list for services
- Understanding how taxes ensure a better quality of life for all and some upward social economic mobility for the poorest
- Environmental stewardship
- Link between environment & economy
- Green technology/renewable energy
- Certified students for wind and urban technology
- Engineering needs (STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
- High tech companies do not stay due to lack of diversity
- High tech fields
- High tech urban areas
- Tech savvy workforce
- Digital divide
- New fields: If cyber command comes to Colorado Springs – Need college to lead in assurance training and skills
- Aerospace installations
- Space technology due to high level of space related contracts
- Lax requirements for promotion
- Community disinclined to support public institutions
- Unemployment rates
- Low pay
- Tourism industry: need hospitality and human services

- Hospitality as an area economic focus
- Service industry focus
- Non-profit skills/appreciation
- Outsourcing
- Visionary leaders
- Resources and programs to assist students in seeing/believing options and alternatives beyond what a local economy/small rural area provides
- Lowest funded public education system
- Financial aid
- Higher salaries for teachers and respect for learning
- Monies to hire faculty at competitive wages
- Financing for state education
- Less funding for higher ed in Colorado
- Cost to educate: size districts, and locations
- Dependence on tuition
- Poor state support of higher ed
- Unable to accommodate students/workers with disabilities

- **Life Issues**

- Parenting Skills (3)
- Responsible Citizenship (5)
- Foster care
- Urban dropouts
- Need to educate parents
- Need to educate first generation families
- Moving family from survival into involvement
- ESL
- Foreign language skills
- Environmental stewardship

- **Cultural Awareness & Competency**

- Diversity of People and Language (10)
- Wide diversity across area – rural to suburban
- Language diversity/cultural diversity
- Community demographics
- Lack of diversity

- **Court System Issues**

- Court systems (“education through criminal justice”)
- Department of Corrections: support services for employees and employee families
- Lots of students through criminal/court system
- Kids in cracks/transition from courts to public education

- **Military**

- Need for Special Needs Teachers impacted by Military (3)
- Military (10)
- High mobility

- Cyber command, homeland security
- Need for special need teachers impacted by the military
- Transient population
- High need kids due to military
- Dealing with military population
- Expansion of service to meet the need to military families

- **Regional Infrastructure**

- Disparity of resources (9)
- Unable to accommodate for disabilities (3)
- Sustainability (3)
- Responsible Citizenship (5)
- Water issues
- Transient population
- Special monies for developmentally disabled
- Unable to accommodate students/workers with disabilities
- Lack of transportation system
- Limited resources
- SES (socio-economic status) segregated throughout region
- Government services
- Community disinclined to support public institutions
- ESL
- Foreign language skills
- Resources and programs to assist students in seeing/believing options and alternatives beyond what a local economy/small rural area provides
- Lowest funded public education system
- Financial aid
- Higher salaries for teachers and respect for learning
- Monies to hire faculty at competitive wages
- Financing for state education
- Less funding for higher ed in Colorado
- Cost to educate: size districts, and locations
- Dependence on tuition
- Poor state support of higher ed
- Economy: wait list for services
- Urban dropouts
- Rural areas (whole host of problems)
- Discrepancy between rural and urban needs
- Poor involvement of private sector
- Geographical awareness
- Politically active area
- Environmental stewardship

Note: Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of groups that had this particular theme on their list of answers to this guiding question. Not all themes have a number indicator because not all themes were discussed at the meeting.