

Colorado's Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act, SB08-212 (CAP4K)

Commissioner Dwight Jones, Colorado Dept of Education
Executive Director David Skaggs, Colorado Dept of Higher Education

THEMES - Alamosa

Guiding Questions: Workforce

- Big picture understanding of their role/how things work/how they impact the larger system
- Positive attitude; professional etiquette
- Balance between competitive and cooperative work – how to share work
- When to lead, when to follow, when to listen
- Decision-making skills – critical thinking, collaboration
- Problem identification, research, testing solutions (scientific process) – and the ability to do this without being told

Guiding Questions: Workforce

- Communication - more than one language
- Ability to find opportunities
- Workplace vocabulary, professionalism
(behavior, attire)
- Public reputation
- Privacy, confidentiality, professional liabilities –
ethical behavior

Guiding Questions: Alamosa

- Language (bilingual students, bilingual education); language as a resource
- Ability to accept new ideas, new concepts; ability to change and adapt
- Appreciation for the arts
 - In competition with other career track subjects
 - As a way to define identity; self-awareness
 - Flourishing artist community despite poverty
 - Critical discipline, imagination
 - Anchor of society and culture
 - Also a critical thinking skill; scientific method; power of observation

Guiding Questions: Alamosa

- First-generational students in higher education
 - Intellectual capital, not necessarily political or economic capital
- Implications of first-generation – need to greater align community and school
- Colleges in the region, richness they bring to community (recreation program)
- Agriculture and tourism
- Lacking real training programs – CTE and other, at all levels (standards-based does not always align with employer/workforce needs)

Guiding Questions: Alamosa

- Lack of communication between local schools and teacher ed/prep programs
- Not enough to produce workers; entrepreneurial skills key (to keep talent local); local incentives
- Change attitudes – students can be tomorrow's local leaders