



STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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November 24, 2008

Dear Superintendants and School Board Members:

In November 2007, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (Commission) approved a revised policy with respect to the requirements for students who graduate from high school in 2010 and later to be admissible to Colorado's four year postsecondary institutions. This policy is generally referred to as Phase II of the Higher Education Admission Requirements (or HEAR 2010).

At its July 2007 meeting, the Commission had directed Department of Higher Education (DHE) staff to work with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to address the problem of students who graduate in 2010 or later seeking college admission without meeting HEAR 2010. In consultation with DHE, CDE sent a survey to Superintendents asking whether the exemptions put in place for HEAR 2008 would provide flexibility for students in meeting HEAR 2010 and whether the Superintendents wanted the additional option of a school district waiver. According to the report we received from Commissioner Jones, Superintendents wanted the option to request a school district waiver, in addition to the existing index exemption and continued flexibility on the admissions window under HEAR 2008.

DHE staff incorporated the reported response from the Superintendents and recommendations from institutional Admission's Directors and other staff in fashioning three recommendations to the Commission for adjustments to the HEAR 2010 policy. The first and second recommendations paralleled existing policy under HEAR 2008, namely, an exemption for students with an index number more than 10 points higher than the minimum index number for a particular institution and application of the 20% admissions window on a statewide rather than on an institution basis; the third would give school districts the option of requesting a school district waiver. The Commission approved all three recommendations at its July 2008 meeting and comparable revisions to formal policy at its September 2008 meeting.

The approved Commission policy provides that:

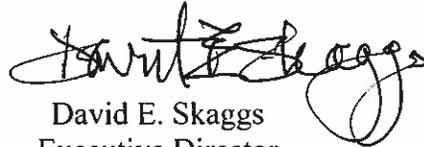
. . . school districts seeking a waiver for students in their district shall by a vote of the school board attest that their school district does not have available resources to meet HEAR 2010 requirements as established in current (CCHE) policy and requests a district waiver from CCHE starting with the graduating class of 2010.

In the event your District determines to pursue a waiver, the policy further provides that a resolution and request for a waiver must be submitted to the Department of Higher Education (Att: Dr. Julie Carnahan) by January 15, 2009, and specify that the school district cannot meet the requirements of the fourth year of mathematics, the one year of foreign language, or both, and provide an explanation as to why the requirements cannot be met. School district waivers will be effective for three years, until the graduating class of 2013.

DHE staff will forward any requests it receives for school district waivers to the Commission for approval at the February 2009 Commission meeting. The institutions of higher education will be given a list of school districts approved for a waiver for HEAR 2010 by March 13, 2009.

Please direct any additional questions about the school district waiver process to Dr. Julie Carnahan at 303-866-2723 or by e-mail at julie.carnahan@dhe.state.co.us

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Skaggs", written in a cursive style.

David E. Skaggs
Executive Director
Department of Higher Education