

TOPIC: PROPOSED GOALS FOR ACHIEVEMENT GAP WORKPLAN

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I. SUMMARY

At prior meetings, the Commission has decided to adopt a work plan to better define and accomplish its policy goals. This agenda item presents the second of three items for that work plan—goals for addressing the achievement gap in Colorado.

II. BACKGROUND AND STAFF ANALYSIS

According to information from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), Colorado has the nation's worst ethnic achievement gap, meaning that Colorado has the largest gap in levels of college attainment between its ethnic majority and minorities. Colorado also has the second highest gap as it relates to disparity of student achievement between high end and low income counties.

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following goals and timelines.

- 1) Identify successful programs and practices, that, if scaled out, could positively impact the achievement gap – October 2010
- 2) Identify and analyze trends that have contributed to Colorado's achievement gap – October 2010
- 3) Identify institutional barriers to closing the achievement gap – November 2010
- 4) Develop a report summarizing the findings – January 2011

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed goals and timelines for addressing the achievement gap in Colorado.