

**23-1-108. Duties and powers of the commission with regard to systemwide planning.**

(1) The commission shall develop and submit to the governor and the general assembly a master plan for Colorado postsecondary education. In developing the master plan, the commission shall examine the statewide expectations and goals specified in section [23-13-104](#) and recommend that the general assembly amend the statewide expectations and goals if necessary. Following amendment of the statewide expectations and goals, the commission shall design the master plan to assure achievement of the statewide expectations and goals in the most timely, efficient, and effective manner. This plan shall recognize the importance of private and proprietary institutions and the role and relationship of elementary and secondary education in the state, though their inclusion in the plan in no way implies control or state authority over their operations. The commission, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions and as a part of the master planning process, shall have the authority to:

- (a) Establish a policy-based and continuing systemwide planning, programming, and coordination process to effect the best use of available resources;
  - (b) Establish such academic and vocational education planning as may be necessary to accomplish and sustain systemwide goals of high quality, access, diversity, efficiency, and accountability. Such planning shall include identification by each governing board of programs of excellence at institutions under their control and plans for enhancement and improvement for those programs.
  - (c) Determine the role and mission of each state-supported institution of higher education within statutory guidelines;
  - (d) Establish enrollment policies, consistent with roles and missions, at state-supported institutions of higher education as described in statute and further defined in paragraph (c) of this subsection (1);
  - (e) Establish state policies that differentiate admission and program standards and that are consistent with institutional roles and missions as described in statute and further defined in paragraph (c) of this subsection (1);
  - (f) Adopt statewide affirmative action policies for the commission, governing boards, and state-supported institutions of higher education. Responsibility for implementation of such policies shall be reserved to the governing boards.
  - (g) Report not less than every four years to the education committees of the general assembly on the need for, advisability of, or progress toward reorganizing the structure of public higher education in Colorado;
  - (h) Establish systemwide policies concerning administrative costs.
- (1.5) (a) On or before December 15, 2010, the commission shall develop and submit to the

governor and the general assembly a new master plan for Colorado postsecondary education. The commission shall collaborate with the governing boards and chief executive officers of the state institutions of higher education in developing the master plan. In addition, the commission shall take into account the final report of the higher education strategic planning steering committee appointed by the governor. At a minimum, the commission shall address the following issues in developing the master plan:

(I) The needs of the state with regard to the system of higher education and the top priorities for the state system of higher education in meeting those needs;

(II) Alignment of the state system of higher education with the system of elementary and secondary education and increasing the rate at which students who graduate from Colorado high schools enroll in and complete postsecondary and career and technical education;

(III) Accessibility and affordability of the state system of higher education, including consideration of methods to reduce the student debt load and increase need-based financial aid funding;

(IV) Funding for the state system of higher education and strategies for stabilizing and sustaining an adequate funding level;

(V) The role and mission of the state institutions of higher education and the governance structure of the state system of higher education; and

(VI) The role of two-year and four-year junior colleges and area vocational schools in helping to address the workforce and economic development needs of the state within the system of higher education.

(b) The commission shall design the master plan to achieve, at a minimum, the following goals:

(I) Implementing systemic approaches that strengthen the continuity of public education from elementary and secondary through postsecondary education for traditional and nontraditional students;

(II) Ensuring the long term fiscal stability and affordability of the state system of higher education and ensuring the efficient allocation of available state resources to support institutions of higher education while protecting the unique mission of each institution. The allocation shall take into consideration, but need not be limited to, tuition capacity, tuition rates relative to competitive institutions, the state resources available to institutions, funding for high-cost programs, the student and family incomes of students enrolled at institutions, enrollment levels, geographic access to educational opportunities throughout the state, and other issues deemed relevant by the commission.

(III) Reducing the educational attainment gap between majority and underrepresented populations throughout the state;

(IV) Reducing the geographic disparities in access to and opportunity to complete a broad array of quality higher education and career and technical education programs;

(V) Implementing strategies that strengthen the link between higher education and economic

development and innovation in the state; and

(VI) Improving and sustaining excellence in career and technical education and undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

(c) (I) The commission shall ensure that the master plan prepared pursuant to this subsection (1.5) specifically addresses providing programs that support and help ensure the success of students who graduate from Colorado high schools and are enrolling as first-time freshmen students and meet one or more of the following criteria:

(A) The student's family is low-income and the student is likely to incur significant student debt in attending an institution of higher education;

(B) The student's parents did not attend postsecondary education and may not have graduated from high school;

(C) The student is a member of an underrepresented population; or

(D) The student has limited access to technologies to support learning.

(II) Programs that may be addressed in the master plan include but need not be limited to:

(A) Providing student support services including counseling or tutoring;

(B) Implementing measures to reduce student debt by making effective use of financial assistance and assisting in fee payments and textbook costs; and

(C) Providing assistance in obtaining access to technology.

(d) Prior to submitting the master plan to the governor and the general assembly, the commission shall distribute a draft of the plan to the governing boards for comment. Each governing board shall submit to the commission its comments and any suggested revisions within fourteen days after receiving the draft plan.

(e) Beginning in the 2011-12 academic year, the commission shall ensure that the master plan is implemented through the performance contracts authorized pursuant to section [23-5-129](#).