TOPIC: MEASURING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS: AN

UPDATE ON THE PARCC (PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSING

**COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS) NATIONAL** 

ASSESSMENT DESIGN

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## I. SUMMARY

This presentation concerns the development of a new assessment system designed to measure the Common Core State Standards as well as indicate—to students, educators and higher education and businesses—the extent to which the student is prepared for college or a career. It is an update on the development and anticipated next steps related to the PWR endorsed diploma criteria recommendation and will eventually be used in the redesign of the state's remedial and admission policies.

#### II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of 23 states plus the U.S. Virgin Islands working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. Colorado became a PARCC Governing State in August 2012. Since then, both CDHE and CDE have actively informed the development of the assessments and related policy decisions.

These new K-12 assessments will build a pathway to college and career readiness by the end of high school, mark students' progress toward this goal from 3rd grade up (through 11<sup>th</sup> grade), and provide teachers with timely information to inform instruction and provide student support. The PARCC assessments will be ready for states to administer during the 2014-15 school year.

PARCC received major grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top assessment competition to support the development and design of the next-generation assessment system. Collectively, the states in PARCC educate about 25 million students and include 10 of the 12 Race to the Top winners. The PARCC states are as follows: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Tennessee.

To reflect the increased responsibility of higher education in the PARCC decision-making process, three members of the PARCC/Achieve Postsecondary Collaboration team are visiting Colorado to support deeper, targeted engagement with key decision makers and to strengthen higher education outreach and engagement plans.

# III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff understand the value of enhancing higher education engagement with the development and deployment of the PARCC assessments and the college and career readiness (CCR) cut-scores for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. In particular, the Colorado Department of Higher Education is focusing on three specific areas for employing the new assessments:

- 1) utilizing the PARCC college readiness determination in the statewide admission and placement policy revisions;
- 2) aligning first-year credit-bearing coursework with new standards and assessments; and,
- 3) updating educator preparation programs to ensure the future teacher workforce is able to successfully implement the new standards and leverage the assessment data to improve student success.

In concert with the consortia states, the State Board of Education and CCHE have statutory authority to jointly adopt scoring criteria for the new assessments that are meaningful to both secondary and postsecondary practitioners.

### IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Presentation only, no action required at this time.

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

23-1-108(7)(a) Duties and powers of the commission with regard to system-wide planning. 22-7-1016 Postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation, and readiness assessments 22-7-1008. Postsecondary and workforce readiness description - postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation, and readiness assessments - adoption - revision.