Colorado Admission Index FAQs

When was the admission index established?

- Initially established in 1986
- Recalibrated in 2003 as grade inflation was noted

What exactly is the index? The index is made up of 2 components:

- High school performance piece – Class rank is equated with GPA, average GPA set = 50 points, other scores standardized for each test taken – higher score taken – higher score taken
- Standardized test piece - SAT is equated with ACT, average ACT set = 50 points, other scores standardized for each test taken – higher score taken
- Two pieces are summed, and theoretically, an average student has an index of 100.

Why is there a need to recalibrate?

- Three components of the index are already standardized (ACT, SAT, Class Rank), however, GPA is not.
- As grade inflation occurs, index inflation also occurs. The need to re-standardize GPAs is the driving factor in the need to recalibrate

How is the index recalibrated?

- The index is recalibrated using a methodology known as equipercentile equating (Kolen & Brennan, 1995), and then using a standardizing equation = ((score – mean)/standard deviation + 50) for each side of the index (HS performance v. Standardized test performance).

What are potential impacts?

- Examining the population of applicants from fall 2009 – spring 2011, the lowest and highest indices are most impacted. Schools with the lowest index scores (Metro, Adams, Western) actually have gains to their pools, while Mines, Boulder, and Colorado State - Ft. Collins would see a decrease – based on unduplicated counts
- Same pattern holds for enrollments with the greatest impact seen at CSU where an additional 181 students would have been "windowed" over the two-year time frame
- With applicants, it is harder to assess because of duplication, however, we are working on assessing this impact as well.

What are the impacts of not doing it?

- Grade inflation will continue to allow more students into the more selective institutions
- The gap in the alignment between admissions and remedial policies will increase, assuming the task force keeps the index in its examination

Have other models been examined?

- Yes, a model using only ACT Math and ACT English and HS Performance
- A model using using weighting on the HS Performance piece