

TOPIC: 2014 LEGISLATIVE REPORT ON THE POSTSECONDARY PROGRESS AND SUCCESS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

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I. SUMMARY

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) is required to prepare an annual report on the postsecondary progress and success of the preceding six high school graduating classes. The nature of this report requires data from both the DHE and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Data between these two state agencies began to be connected with the introduction of the State Assigned Student ID (SASID). Because of this linkage requirement, data are currently only available dating back to the 2009 high school graduating class. Thus, this report covers the high school graduating classes of 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Next year's report will cover the preceding five high school graduating classes, and the 2016 report will fulfill the statutory requirements of reporting on the preceding six graduating classes.

This report is to be submitted to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, the State Board of Education and the Colorado Department of Education. The report consists of four parts:

1. Postsecondary enrollment trends, including information on institution type and in-state and out-of-state enrollment, disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.
2. Information on first-year college students in Colorado, including financial aid status, average grade point average, credit accumulation and degree type, disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.
3. First year retention rates.
4. Information on postsecondary credential completion.

This information also is available by district and high school on the DHE website in the District at a Glance searchable database.

II. BACKGROUND

C.R.S. 23-1-113(9) mandates that the Commission, as part of its implementation of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids, report to the General Assembly on the postsecondary progress and success of recent high school graduating classes. The report is to be disaggregated by school district, ethnicity, gender, and financial aid status.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Report attached.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is an information item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-113 (9)

(9) On or before February 15, 2012, and on or before February 15 each year thereafter, the department of higher education shall submit to the state board of education, the department of education, and the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, or any successor committees, a report, subject to available data, concerning the enrollment, placement and completion of basic skills courses, first-year college grades, and types of academic certificates and degrees attained at all postsecondary institutions in Colorado and the United States for the high school graduating classes of the preceding six academic years. The department of higher education shall report the information disaggregated by high school and school district of graduation, to the extent practicable, and by ethnicity, gender, financial aid status, and any other characteristic deemed relevant by the commission. The department of higher education and the department of education shall also make the report available on their respective web sites.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2014 Legislative Report on Postsecondary Progress and Success of High School Graduates