COLORADO
Department of Higher Education

2014 Legislative Report on the Postsecondary Progress and Success of High School Graduates

May 1, 2014

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Lt. Governor Joseph Garcia, Executive Director

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This report was prepared by The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) pursuant to 23-1-113 C.RS. For more information contact:

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Introduction

Pursuant to statute (23-1-113 [9] C.R.S), the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) is required to submit a report concerning the postsecondary academic progress and success of the preceding six high school graduating classes. Due to limitations on the availability of data, this report covers the high school graduating classes of 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Future reports will include additional data as they are available to the Department. This report has been submitted to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives and to the State Board of Education.

This report, the third of its kind, consists of four parts:

1. Postsecondary enrollment trends, including information on in-state and out-of-state enrollment and institution type, 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 level, disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.
3. First year retention rates.
4. Information on postsecondary credential attainment.

Highlights

- Fifty seven percent (57%) of the 2012 high school graduating class enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the fall immediately following graduation.
- In 2012, more female high school graduates (61%) enrolled in college than male graduates (53%).
- Seventy-two percent of the 2012 cohort enrolled at a four-year institution (in- or out-of-state) and 28 percent enrolled at a two-year college.
- Hispanic students are the most likely to enroll at a two-year college, while Asian students are the most likely to enroll at a four-year institution.
- Asian and white high school graduates had the highest college-going rates in 2012—71.1 percent and 62.8 percent, respectively.
- Of the 2012 graduates enrolling in college, 78 percent elected to attend a Colorado college or university.
- Out-of-state college attendance went up by one percent from 21 percent of college-going students to 22 percent.
- About 37 percent of first-year college students received a Federal Pell Grant in 2012.

- At the end of the 2012-2013 academic year, the average cumulative grade point average (GPA) for first-year college students in Colorado was 2.72, up from 2.67.
- Of the 2012 high school graduates who enrolled in college immediately, approximately 75 percent had completed at least 19 credit hours by the end of their first year (spring 2013). About 25 percent had completed more than 35 credit hours.
- The first year retention rate for 2011 high schools graduates was 87.8 percent at four-year institutions and 60.2 percent at two-year colleges. These retention rates are better than national retention rate averages, although they are down slightly from last year's report.
- Four years after enrolling in college, nearly 30 percent of the 2009 high school graduating cohort had earned at least one postsecondary credential.
- Approximately 66 percent of the credentials awarded during the 2009 cohort's first four years in college were bachelor's degrees, 19 percent were associate degrees, and 15 percent were certificates.
- Female students are significantly more likely to earn a credential than male students within four years of enrolling in college. After four years, 34.6 percent of females from the 2009 cohort had earned some type of certificate or degree compared to 24 percent of males.
- Nearly 7 percent of the American Indian/Alaskan Native students in the 2009 cohort earned a credential within two years of entering college compared to only 2.2 percent of African-American students.
- Four years after entering college, 32.5 percent of white students had earned at least one postsecondary credential compared to 15.4 percent of African-American students and 20.4 percent of Hispanic students.

Part I. Postsecondary Enrollment

Earning a postsecondary credential is increasingly necessary to be competitive for jobs in today's economy. It is estimated that by 2020, 74 percent of Colorado's jobs will require some form of postsecondary education.[1] The path to earning a postsecondary certificate or degree begins in the K-12 system. This report looks at how Colorado's recent high school graduates fared after finishing high school by asking questions such as: Who enrolled in college? In what type of college did those students enroll? How successful were students in their first year of college? How many degrees have been awarded? By answering these questions, Colorado's K-12 and higher education systems can better work together to ensure that all students have the opportunity to transition seamlessly from high school into higher education.

Overview

The high school class of 2012 consisted of 52,012 individual graduates. Of those students, 29,625, or 57.0 percent, enrolled in a postsecondary institution in Colorado or another state in the fall immediately following graduation. The 2012 average enrollment rate is on par with last year's rate but is down almost 2 percent from 2009. Of the 2012 high school graduates, 44.4 percent enrolled at a public Colorado college or university, while 12.5 percent went out-of-state to attend college.

College enrollment information for the top 10 and bottom 10 districts—as ranked by the overall college-going rate—is displayed in Tables 3 and 4. Swink School District has the highest college enrollment rate (86.2 percent) and Englewood Schools has the lowest rate (25.7 percent). College enrollment information for all school districts in the state can be found in Appendix A.

Table 1. Summary Statistics for High School Graduates

High School Graduation Year	Total High School Graduates	Total College Enrollment	% High School Graduates Enrolling in College
2012	52,012	29,625	57.0%
2011	52,246	29,974	57.4%
2010	51,702	29,937	57.9%
2009	50,184	29,525	58.8%

Table 2. In-State and Out-of-State Enrollment Summary

High School Graduation Year	% HS Graduates Enrolling at In-State College	% HS Graduates Enrolling at Out-of-State College	% HS Graduates Not Enrolled
2012	44.4%	12.5%	43.0%
2011	45.2%	12.2%	42.6%
2010	45.9%	12.0%	42.1%
2009	47.4%	11.4%	41.2%

[1] Carnevale, Anthony P.; Smith, N, Strohl, J. (2013). *Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020*. Washington D.C.: Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforce.

Table 3. Enrollment by Top 10 Districts with Highest College-Going Rates[2]

District Name	Total # Graduates	Total College Enrollment #	%
Swink School District	29	25	86.2%
Cheyenne Mountain School District 12	318	244	76.7%
Aspen School District	145	110	75.9%
Academy District 20	1,781	1321	74.2%
Telluride School District R-1	41	30	73.2%
Steamboat Springs School District RE-2	149	107	71.8%
Littleton Public Schools	1,265	901	71.2%
Lewis-Palmar School District 38	491	349	71.1%
Estes Park School District R-3	80	56	70.0%
Sargent Schools	26	18	69.2%

Table 4. Enrollment by Bottom 10 Districts with Lowest College-Going Rates

District Name	Total # Graduates	Total College Enrollment #	%
Englewood Schools	230	59	25.7%
Plateau Valley School District 50	91	24	26.4%
Adams 14	358	96	26.8%
Sheridan School District	81	22	27.2%
Weld RE-9 School District	58	19	32.8%
Karval School District RE-23	36	12	33.3%
Mapleton Public Schools	330	115	34.8%
Weld County School District RE-8	128	45	35.2%
Charter School Institute	544	193	35.5%
Adams County School District 50	435	155	35.6%

Class Characteristics

Colorado's high school graduating class of 2012 was comprised of an almost even number of males and females (see Table 5). About 63 percent of graduates were white, 25 percent were Hispanic, 5 percent were African-American, 3 percent were Asian, 2.5 percent reported being of two or more races, and less than 1 percent were American Indian/Alaskan Native or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Over one quarter of the 2012 graduating class was eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

Looking only at the students from the high school class of 2012 who enrolled immediately in college, the group is slightly more female and white than the overall class of

[2] Only districts with more than 25 graduates were included in the rankings for Table 3 and 4, per the guidelines for the District at a Glance project. All districts, regardless of size, are included in Appendix A.

graduates. While Hispanic students made up one fourth of the high school graduating class, they account for less than one fifth of the students who went to college in the fall of 2012. About 20 percent of this group of first-year college students had received free or reduced price lunch in high school.

Table 5. Class Characteristics:

High School Class of 2012

	% of Students
Female	50.5%
Male	49.5%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.9%
Asian	3.2%
African-American	5.0%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%
Hispanic	25.3%
Two or More Races	2.5%
White (not Hispanic)	62.9%
Free Reduced Price Lunch	27.0%

College-Going Students from 2012 Class

	% of Students
Female	54.1%
Male	45.9%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.6%
Asian	4.0%
African-American	4.6%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%
Hispanic	18.4%
Two or More Races	2.7%
White (not Hispanic)	69.4%
Free Reduced Price Lunch	19.7%

Enrollment Rates by Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Income

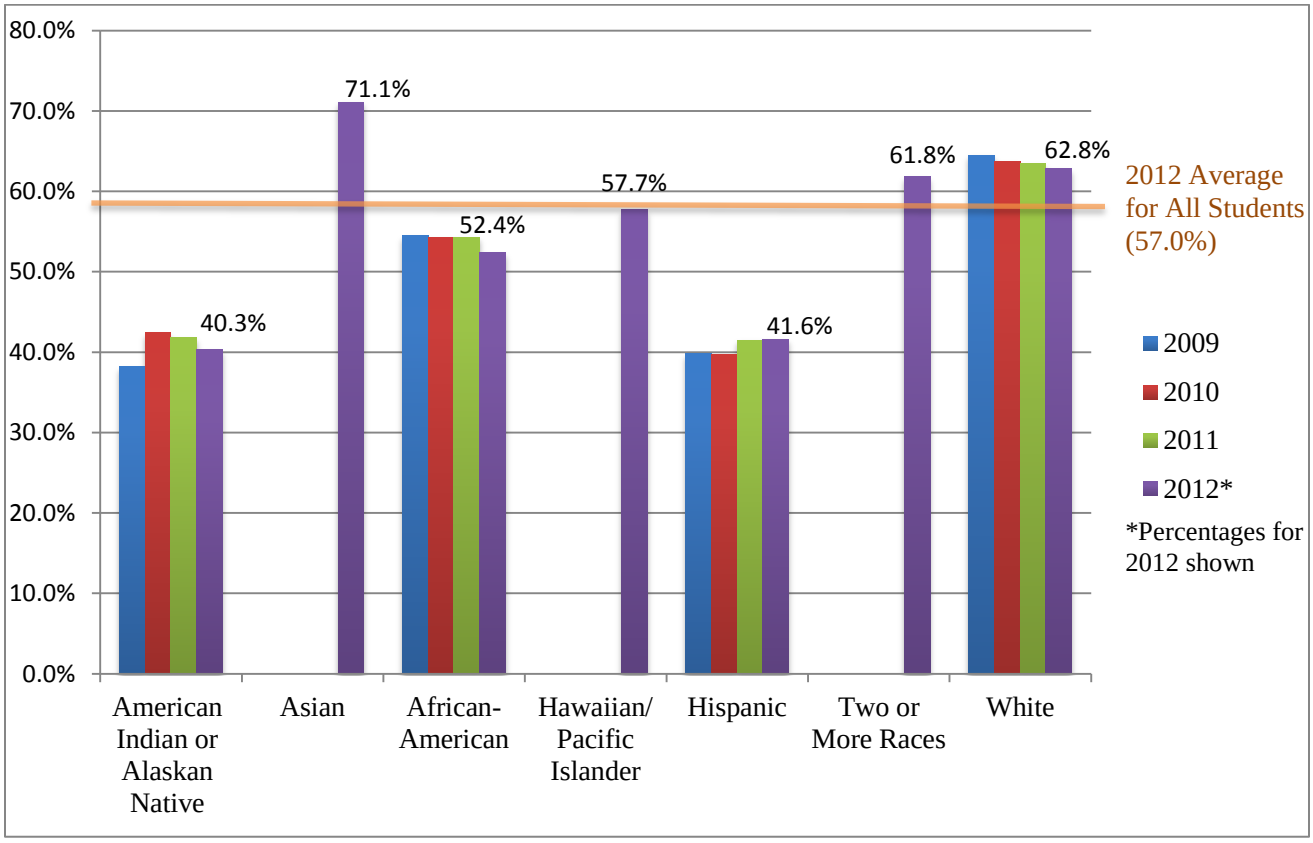
Figures 1 and 2 depict college enrollment rates for 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 high school graduates by race/ethnicity, gender, and income (as represented by free and reduced price lunch eligibility in high school). New racial/ethnic categories for data reporting went into full effect during the 2011-2012 academic year. Therefore, there are some limitations in the availability of data and the ability to make prior-year comparisons for some of the racial/ethnic groups.

Asian and white high school graduates had the highest college-going rates in 2012—71.1 percent and 62.8 percent, respectively—while American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hispanic graduates had the lowest college-going rates (40.3% and 41.6%, respectively). When comparing just white and Hispanic graduates in 2012, there is a 21 percentage-point gap in college enrollment rates (see Figure 1).

In all four years shown, a higher percentage of female high school graduates enrolled in college than male graduates. In 2012, for example, 61.1 percent of female students attended college in the fall immediately following graduation, compared to 52.8 percent of male students. High school graduates who received free and reduced price lunch also have lower than average college-going rates; 41.4 percent in 2012 (see Figure 2).

Over the last four years, enrollment rates declined for white and African-American populations, while rates increased for Hispanic students (41.6% enrolled in 2012 compared to 39.8% in 2009).

Figure 1. Enrollment Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2009-2012



Note: New racial/ethnicity categories have been added to comply with state and federal reporting standards. Prior-year data and comparisons for Asian students, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students and students of Two or More Races are not available.

Figure 2. Enrollment Rates by Gender and Income, 2009-2012

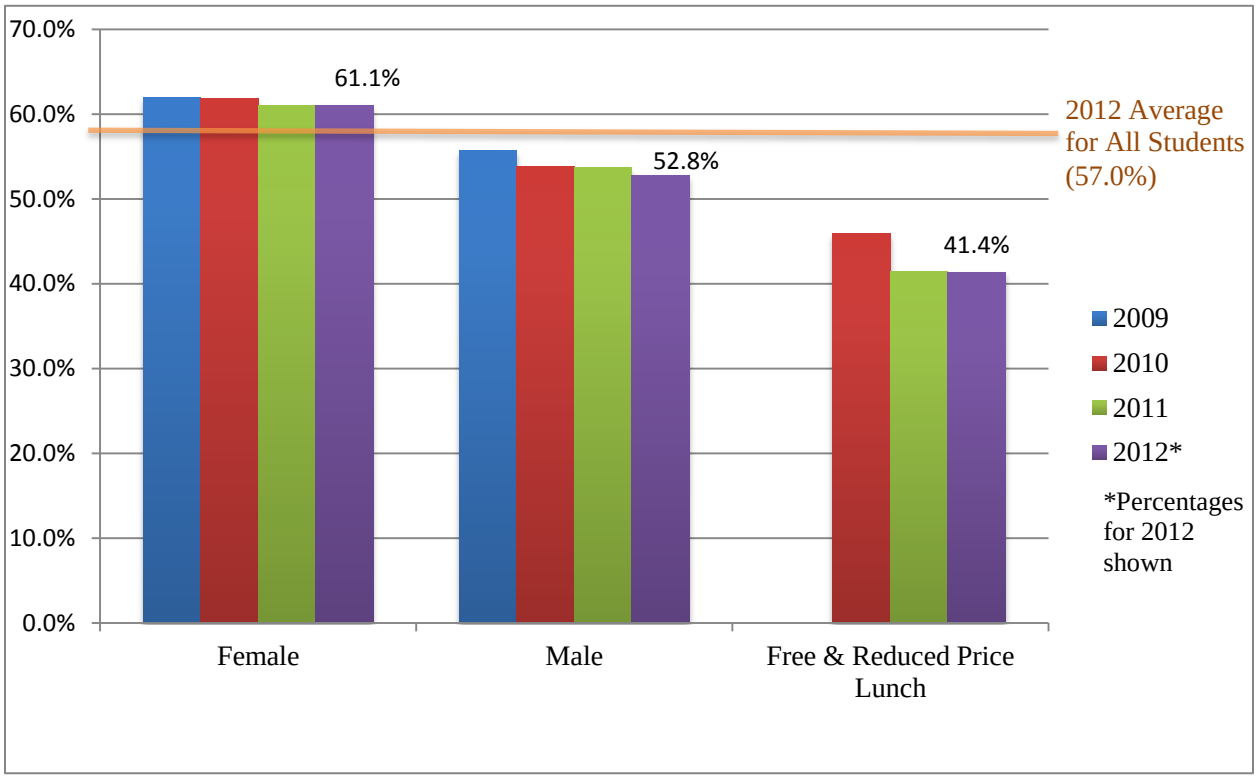
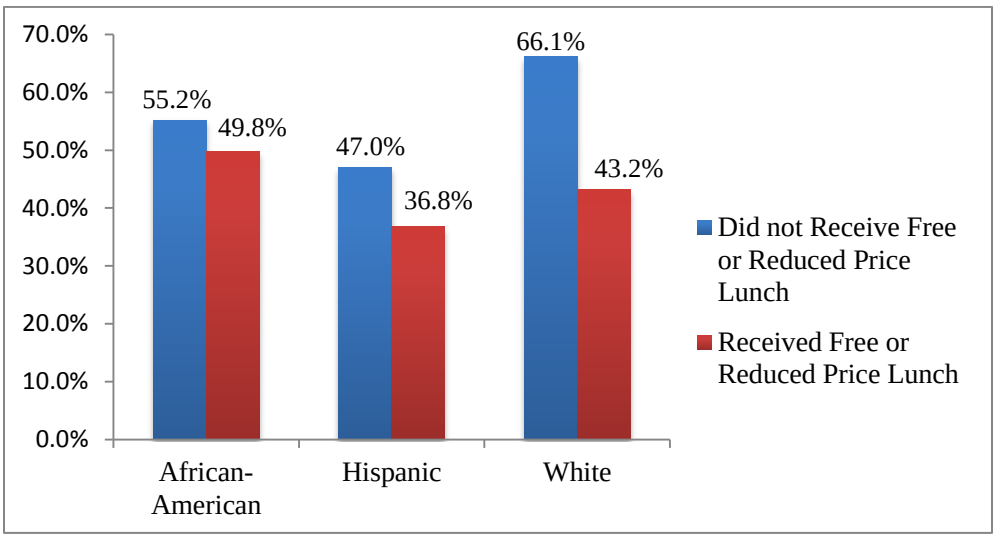


Table 6. College Enrollment Details by Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Income (2012)

	2012 Total # Graduates	2012 Total College Enrollment		2012 % HS Graduates Enrolling		% HS Graduates Not Enrolled
		#	%	In-State	Out-of-State	
Female	26,272	16,040	61.1%	46.9%	14.2%	38.9%
Male	25,740	13,585	52.8%	42.0%	10.8%	47.2%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	476	192	40.3%	32.1%	8.2%	59.7%
Asian	1,660	1,181	71.1%	57.5%	13.6%	28.9%
African-American	2,597	1,362	52.4%	41.5%	10.9%	47.6%
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	111	64	57.7%	50.5%	7.2%	42.3%
Hispanic	13,147	5,464	41.6%	36.7%	4.9%	58.4%
Two or More Races	1,315	813	61.8%	48.2%	13.6%	38.2%
White (not Hispanic)	32,706	20,549	62.8%	47.2%	15.7%	37.2%
Free & Reduced Lunch	14,066	5,824	41.4%	36.4%	5.0%	58.6%

Figure 3 displays enrollment rates for the top three racial/ethnic populations in the state by free and reduced price lunch status. Receiving free or reduced price lunch in high school reduces the college-going rate for all groups. African-American students see the smallest decline in college enrollment rates, while white students see the largest decline. Hispanic students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch have the lowest college-going rate at 36.8 percent, which is up slightly from last year's rate of 35.6 percent. Hispanics students are also the most likely to received free and reduced price lunch. Fifty-three percent of all Hispanic high school graduates in 2012 received free or reduced price lunch. This means that for over half of the Hispanic high school graduates in the class of 2012, only 36.8 percent enrolled in college in the fall following graduation.

Figure 3. Enrollment Rates, by Race/Ethnicity for Different Income Levels, 2012

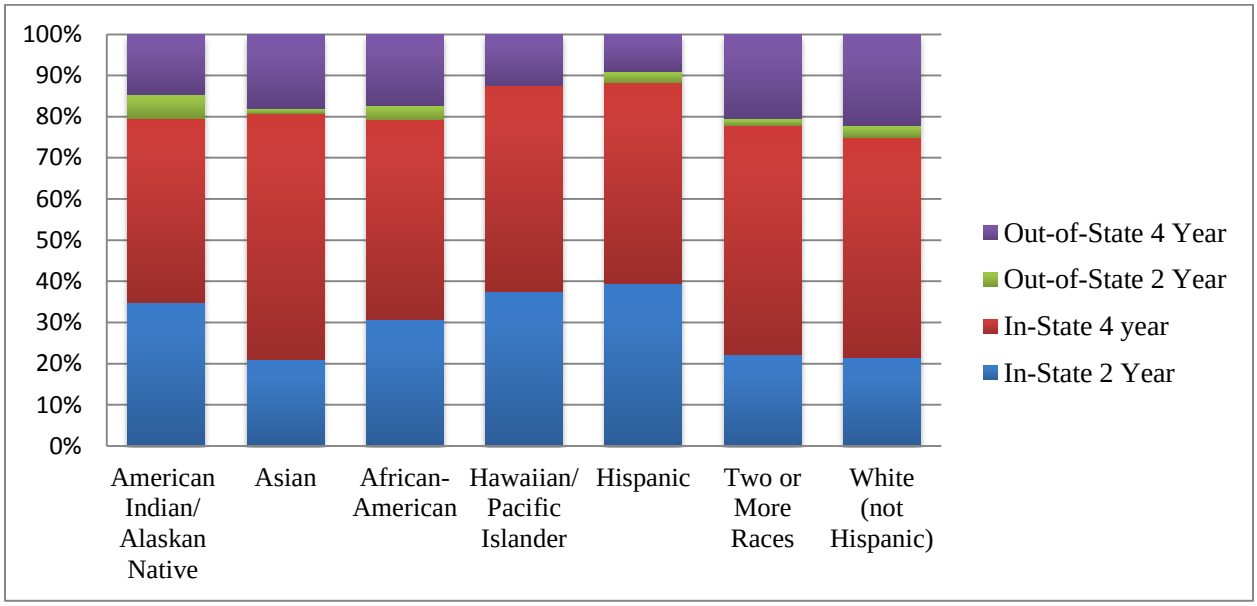


Enrollment by Institution Type and Race/Ethnicity

The following section looks only at those high school students who did enroll in college within six months of graduation. Of the 2012 graduates enrolling in college, about 78 percent attended a Colorado college or university, while 22 percent attended out-of-state institutions (see Figure 7). Out-of-state college enrollment increased by one percent over last year. As depicted in Figure 4, Hispanic students are the least likely ethnic population to leave the state to attend college (11.7 percent), while white students are the most likely to leave Colorado (25 percent). Students who identified as being of two or more races had the next highest percentage of out-of-state college attendance (22 percent). Figure 5 displays the breakdown of student enrollments by type of institution and gender. Female students were slightly more likely than male students to attend an out-of-state institution—and in particular, a four-year, out-of-state institution.

In terms of where in the country students go when they leave Colorado, Figure 6 shows the twenty most popular states for the high school graduating class of 2012. On the high end, 585 graduates went to a postsecondary institution in California, followed by 518 graduates who went to a Wyoming institution and 414 who went to college in Arizona. On the lower end, 125 graduates attended college in Missouri, and 123 went to a college in Minnesota.

Figure 4. College Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity and Institution Type (2012)



Only a small fraction of college-going students leave the state to attend a two-year college, about 3 percent, compared to 19 percent of college-going students who attend four-year institutions outside of Colorado. Within Colorado, a higher proportion of students attend a two-year college. Of the 2012 college-going graduates, 25 percent attended a two-year college and 53 percent attended a four-year institution in Colorado.

Considering only the type of college and not the location, about 72 percent of the 2012 cohort enrolled at a four-year institution and 28 percent enrolled at a two-year college (see Figure 8). Enrollment at a four-year institution increased by one percent over last year's enrollment (up from 71 percent). Compared to other racial/ethnic groups, Asian graduates are the most likely to enroll at a four-year institution (78 percent), followed by white students (76 percent). Hispanic students are the most likely to enroll at a two-year college (42 percent), followed by American Indian/Alaskan Native students (41 percent).

Figure 5. College Enrollment, by Gender and Institution Type (2011)

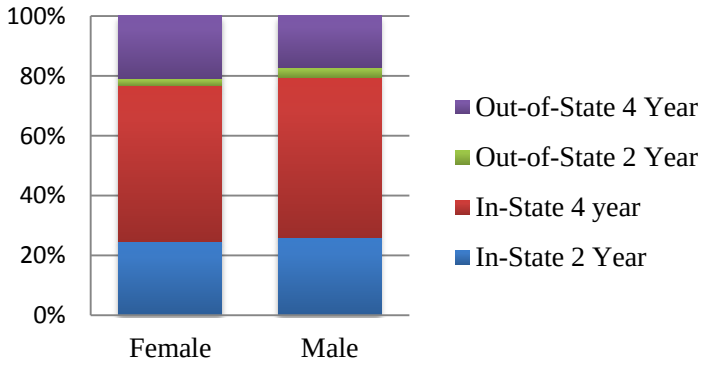


Figure 6. Top States Where 2012 High School Graduates Attended College Outside of Colorado

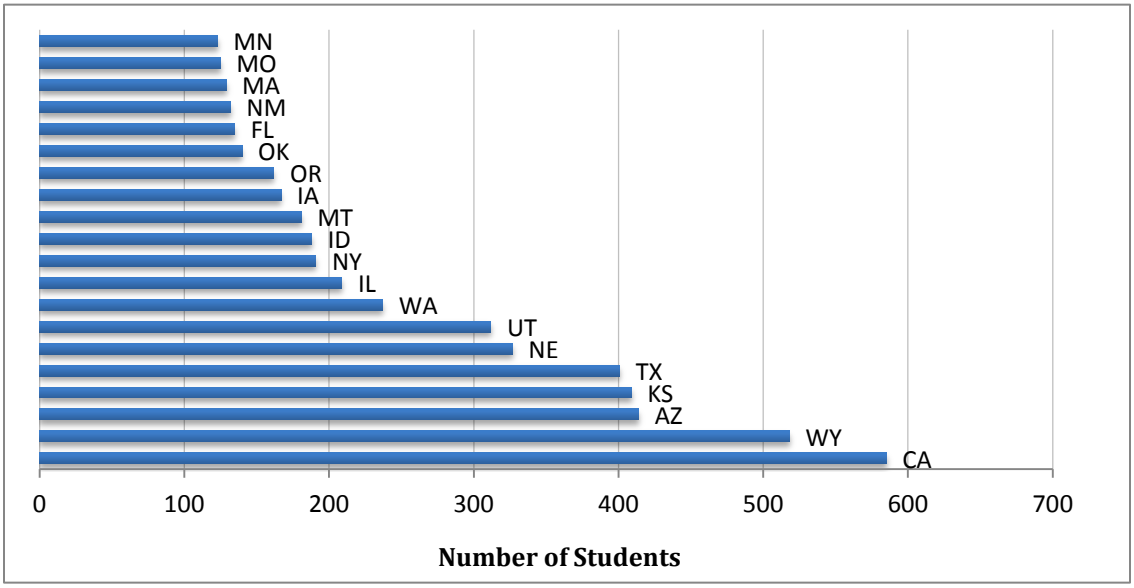


Figure 7. Enrollment In-State and Out-of-State (2012)

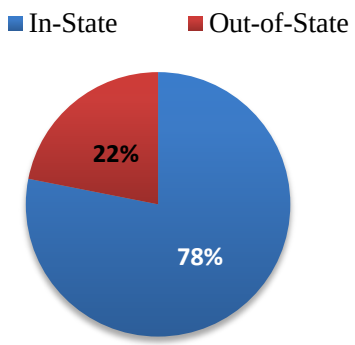
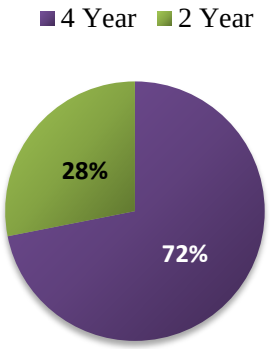


Figure 8. Enrollment 2 and 4 Year Institutions (2012)



Enrollment by Institution Name

To conclude the discussion of where Colorado high school graduates attend college, Table 7 provides several lists of the most attended institutions. Colorado State University tops the lists of the most attended institutions when looking at both two- and four-year institutions and when looking at only four-year institutions. The University of Colorado Denver is new this year to the list of top 10 most attended institutions (two- and four-year institutions). Front Range Community College, Pikes Peak Community College and Community College of Denver are the most highly attended two-year institutions. Students leaving Colorado for college are most likely to attend the University of Wyoming, Brigham Young University and Montana State University – Bozeman.

Table 7. Enrollment by Most Attended Institutions for High School Class of 2012

Top 10 Most Attended Institutions, 2 & 4 Years	# Students	% College Going Students
Colorado State University	3,100	10.5%
University of Colorado Boulder	2,699	9.1%
University of Northern Colorado	1,801	6.1%
Metropolitan State University of Denver	1,632	5.5%
Front Range Community College	1,448	4.9%
Colorado Mesa University	1,431	4.8%
Pikes Peak Community College	1,170	3.9%
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	1,096	3.7%
Community College of Denver	784	2.6%
University of Colorado Denver	762	2.6%
Top 10 Most Attended Institutions, 2 Years	**# Students**	**% College Going Students**
Front Range Community College	1,448	4.9%
Pikes Peak Community College	1,170	3.9%
Community College of Denver	784	2.6%
Red Rocks Community College	725	2.4%
Arapahoe Community College	627	2.1%
Community College of Aurora	484	1.6%
Pueblo Community College	450	1.5%
Aims Community College	441	1.5%
Northeastern Junior College	345	1.2%
Colorado Mountain College	333	1.1%
Top 10 Most Attended Institutions, 4 Years	**# Students**	**% College Going Students**
Colorado State University	3,100	10.5%
University of Colorado Boulder	2,699	9.1%
University of Northern Colorado	1,801	6.1%
Metropolitan State University of Denver	1,632	5.5%
Colorado Mesa University	1,431	4.8%
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	1,096	3.7%
University of Colorado Denver	762	2.6%
Colorado State University - Pueblo	629	2.1%
Colorado School of Mines	528	1.8%
Fort Lewis College	395	1.3%
Top 10 Most Attended Institutions, Out of State, 2 & 4 Years	**# Students**	**% College Going Students**
University of Wyoming (WY)	348	1.2%
Brigham Young University (UT)	146	0.5%
Montana State University – Bozeman (MT)	130	0.4%
Arizona State University (AZ)	103	0.3%
Northern Arizona University (AZ)	74	0.2%
University of Arizona (AZ)	71	0.2%
Grand Canyon University (AZ)	67	0.2%
University of Kansas (KS)	67	0.2%
WyoTech Laramie (WY)	67	0.2%
Baylor University (TX)	66	0.2%

Part II. First-Year College Students

In this section, information about first-year college students, including financial aid status, GPA, credit accumulation and degree level, is provided. This level of detail is only available from the Colorado Department of Higher Education's Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS), which includes information from all public colleges and universities in the state and the University of Denver, Regis University, and Colorado Christian University.

Financial Aid Recipients

As the tables below show, 35.1 percent of first-year college students received a Federal Pell Grant in 2012. Thirty-eight percent of females received a Pell grant, compared to 31.4 percent of males. Within racial/ethnic groups, 66.9 percent of African-American college students and 56.2 percent of Hispanic students received a Pell grant, compared to 25.8 percent of white students. The overall percentage of students receiving a Pell grant decreased from 2011 to 2012; this is a change in direction from the steady increases seen from 2009 to 2011.

Table 8. Summary of Pell Recipients, by High School Graduation Year

High School Graduation Year	Number of College Students	Students Receiving Pell Grants		Students Not Receiving Pell Grants	
		#	%	#	%
2012	20,903	7,334	35.1%	13,569	64.9%
2011	22,458	8,265	36.8%	14,193	63.2%
2010	22,972	7,955	34.6%	15,017	65.4%
2009	23,182	6634	28.6%	16,548	71.4%

Table 9. Pell Grant Recipients, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (2012)

	2012 Number of Students	2012 Number Receiving Pell Grant	2012 Percentage Receiving Pell Grant	2011-2012 Change in Percent Receiving Pell
Female	11,176	4,280	38.3%	⬇ -2.3%
Male	9,727	3,054	31.4%	⬇ -7.9%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	125	53	42.4%	⬆ 2.9%
Asian	902	414	45.9%	n/a*
African-American	887	593	66.9%	⬆ 0.3%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	48	24	50.0%	n/a*
Hispanic	4,203	2,362	56.2%	⬇ -2.3%
Two or More Races	566	227	40.1%	n/a*
White	14,172	3,661	25.8%	⬇ -7.9%

*New racial/ethnic categories have been modified and added to comply with state and federal reporting standards; prior-year comparison for these groups is not possible.

Grade Point Averages

At the end of the 2012-2013 academic year, the average cumulative grade point average (GPA) for first-year college students in Colorado was 2.72. This is a marked increase over prior years (see Table 10). As shown in Table 11, female students had a higher average GPA (2.83) than male students (2.59). Across racial/ethnic groups, average GPA's ranged from 2.34 for African-American students to 2.80 for white students. When considering quartile ranges, GPAs at the 25th percentile were below or slightly above a 2.0, which is typically the minimum GPA needed to graduate from college. This means that approximately 25 percent of students are close to being placed on academic probation and are at risk of not graduating.

Table 10. Summary of Grade Point Averages, by High School Graduation Year

High School Graduation Year	Number of College Students	First Year Average GPA	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
2012	20,903	2.72	2.20	3.40
2011	22,458	2.67	2.10	3.40
2010	22,972	2.66	2.10	3.40
2009	23,182	2.66	2.10	3.30

Table 11. Grade Point Averages, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (2012)

	2012 Number of Students	First Year Average GPA	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Female	11,176	2.83	2.00	3.30
Male	9,727	2.59	2.30	3.50
American Indian or Alaskan Native	125	2.61	2.10	3.30
Asian	902	2.76	2.20	3.40
African-American	887	2.34	1.70	3.00
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	48	2.64	2.20	3.20
Hispanic	4,203	2.52	2.00	3.20
Two or More Races	566	2.65	2.10	3.40
White (not Hispanic)	14,172	2.80	2.30	3.50

Credit Hour Accumulation

Research suggests that the number of credit hours earned in a student's first year of college influences the likelihood of completion. It has been noted that completing at least 20 credit hours in the first year increases the chances of degree attainment.[3] As Table 12 shows, for students who graduated from high school in 2012 and went on to immediately enroll in college, approximately 75 percent had completed at least 19 credit hours and 25 percent had completed more than 35 credit hours by the end of their first year (spring 2013). The credit hour accumulations may include concurrent enrollment credits earned.

Table 12. Summary of Credit Hour Accumulation, by High School Graduation Year

High School Graduation Year	Number of College Students	First Year Avg. # Completed Credits	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
2012	20,903	28.8	19.0	35.0
2011	22,458	28.3	18.0	34.0
2010	22,972	27.9	18.0	34.0
2009	23,182	28.1	18.0	35.0

The average number of credits completed for the 2012 first-year students was 28.8 credits. This is slightly above the average number of completed credits by students from the high school graduating classes of 2011, 2010, and 2009 (see Table 13). In 2012, female students had a slightly higher credit accumulation average (29.4) than male students (28.1). Asian students had the highest average number of credits completed in their first year of college (30.9 credits). On average, Hispanic students completed almost 6 fewer credits in their first year than Asian students, and African-American students completed almost 8 fewer credits than Asian students.

Table 13. Credit Hour Accumulation, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (2012)

	2012 Number of Students	First Year Avg. # Completed Credits	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Female	11,176	29.4	20.0	36.0
Male	9,727	28.1	18.0	34.0

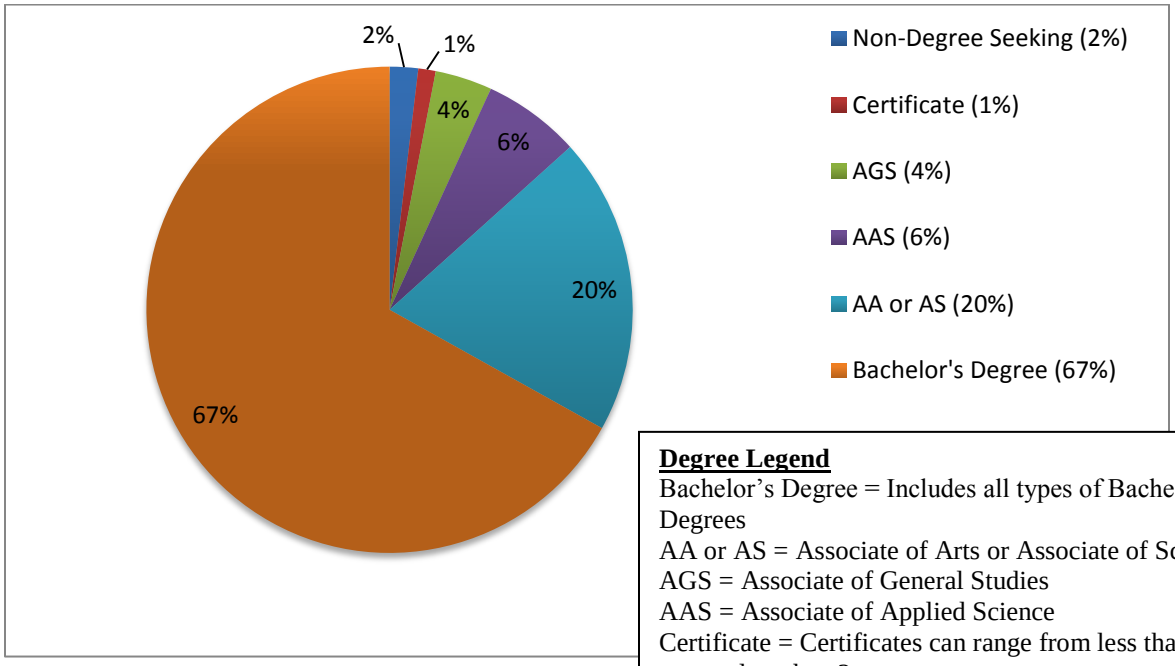
[3] Adelman, C. (2006). *The toolbox revisited: Paths to degree completion from high school through college*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education. Particularly, Adelman (2006) found a 40 percentage point gap in bachelor's degree attainment between students who had completed over 20 credits in their first year (77% degree completion) and those who had not (35% degree completion).

	2012 Number of Students	First Year Avg. # Completed Credits	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
American Indian or Alaskan Native	125	24.8	15.0	32.0
Asian	902	30.9	21.0	37.0
African-American	887	23.0	13.3	30.0
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	48	27.9	21.3	33.0
Hispanic	4,203	25.1	14.0	32.0
Two or More Races	566	26.6	17.0	33.0
White (not Hispanic)	14,172	30.2	22.0	36.0

Degree Level

In their first year of college, students specify what level of degree they are pursuing. Of the 2012 high school graduates who enrolled in college, 67 percent indicated that they are pursuing a Bachelor's degree and 20 percent indicated they are pursuing an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. An Associate of Applied Science is the next most popular degree, with 6 percent of 2012 first-year college students pursuing this option. Overall, 97 percent of college freshmen are seeking a two- or four-year degree.

Figure 9. Types of Degrees 2012 High School Graduates are Pursuing



Degree Legend
Bachelor's Degree = Includes all types of Bachelor's Degrees
AA or AS = Associate of Arts or Associate of Science
AGS = Associate of General Studies
AAS = Associate of Applied Science
Certificate = Certificates can range from less than 1 year to less than 2 years

Part III. Retention Rates

Unlike the previous section, part three is representative of all students. Using data from the National Student Clearinghouse, the Department of Higher Education is able to track retention rates for all students, whether they are enrolled in Colorado, in another state, at a public institution or a private one.

First-year retention rates are important to consider because students are most likely to drop out of college during or after their first year. The overall first-year retention rate for the high school graduating class of 2011 was 79.9 percent.[4] This means that for all students who graduated high school in spring 2011 and enrolled in college in fall 2011, 79.9 percent enrolled for a second year of college in fall 2012. This is slightly down from the retention rates of the previous two high school graduating classes but remains above national averages. The overall retention rate for the nation hovers around 70 percent.[5]

As Table 14 shows, the first-year retention rate at four-year institutions was 87.9 percent for 2011 students. Comparatively, the retention rate at two-year colleges was 60.2 percent for the same cohort of high school graduates. These average retention rates are better than national figures.

Retention rates for female students from the high school class of 2011 were 5.6 percentage points higher than retentions rates for male students (see Table 15). Compared to other ethnic populations, Hispanic students had the lowest retention rates overall and at four-year institutions. African-American students had the lowest retentions rates at two-year institutions. The largest gap in overall retention rates among racial/ethnic groups is between Asian and Hispanic students (16 percentage points).

Table 14. Retention Rates, by High School Graduation Year

High School Graduation Year	First Year Retention Rate Overall	First Year Retention Rate 4 Year Institutions	First Year Retention Rate 2 Year Institutions	First Year Retention Rate In-State Public Institutions Only[6]
2011	79.9%	87.8%	60.2%	78.7%
2010	80.7%	88.3%	62.1%	76.9%
2009	81.4%	88.5%	63.3%	77.9%

[4] Retention rates are not yet available for students who were in their first year of college in the 2012-2013 academic year.
[5] U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
[6] Includes all SURDS institutions (2- and 4-year institutions)

Table 15. Retention Rates, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (High School Class of 2010)

Race/Ethnicity	First Year Retention Rate Overall	First Year Retention Rate 4 Year Institutions	First Year Retention Rate 2 Year Institutions
Female	82.5%	89.6%	63.5%
Male	76.9%	85.6%	56.9%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	72.4%	79.1%	61.1%
Asian	86.6%	91.3%	69.1%
African-American	71.2%	83.7%	49.3%
Hispanic	70.9%	81.7%	56.9%
White (not Hispanic)	82.5%	89.1%	62.5%

Part IV. Postsecondary Credential Attainment

In this section, information about postsecondary credential attainment is provided. This level of detail is only available from the Colorado Department of Higher Education's Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS) dating back to the high school graduating class of 2009. For those students who graduated from a Colorado high school in 2009 and enrolled in a public college in Colorado the following fall, data are now available for four complete years of postsecondary education.

Table 16 provides credential attainment rates by assessing what percentage of the 2009 graduates who immediately enrolled in college had earned any type of postsecondary credential (a certificate, associate degree or bachelor's degree) within two and four years of entering college. Of all students in the 2009 cohort, nearly 5 percent had earned a credential within two years of entering an institution of higher education. Approximately 62 percent of the credentials awarded during this cohort's first two years in college were certificates and 38 percent were associate degrees. Four years after enrolling in college, almost 30 percent of the 2009 cohort had earned at least one certificate or degree. Approximately 66 percent of the credentials awarded during this cohort's first four years in college were bachelor's degrees, 19 percent were associate degrees, and 15 percent were certificates (See Figure 10).

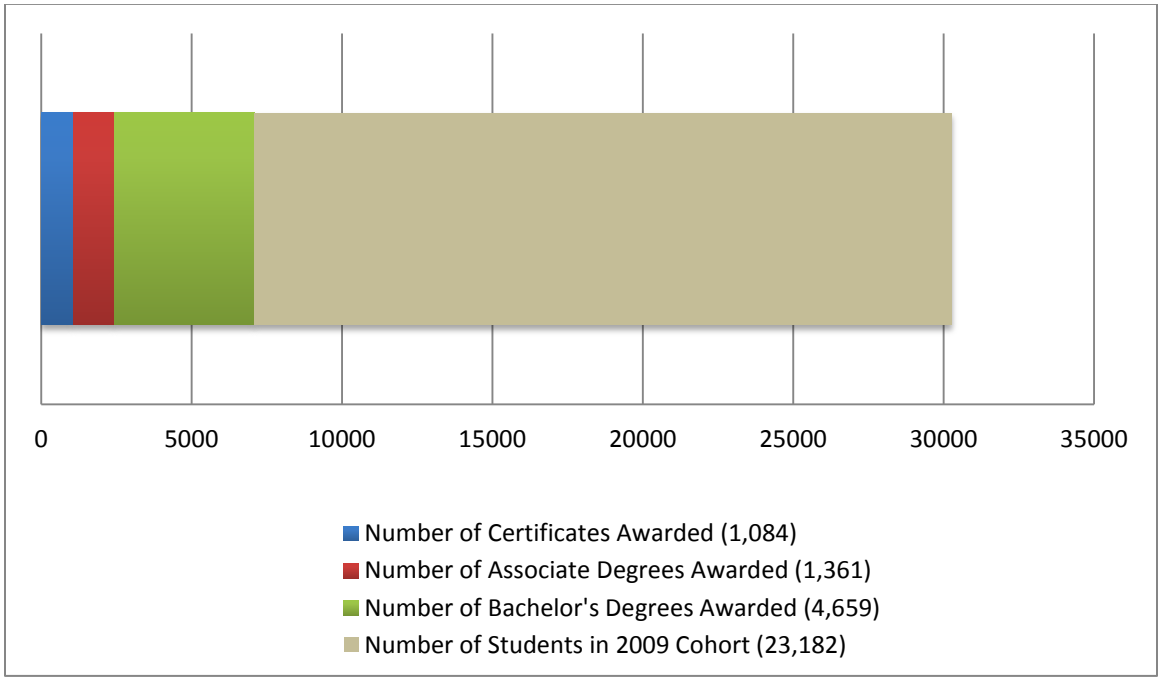
Table 16. 2009 High School Graduates
Credential Attainment Rates, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity*

	Number HS Grads Enrolled in College (In Fall 2009)**	Percent Earning Any Credential Within 2 Years (By Spring 2011)	Percent Earning Any Credential Within 4 Years (By Spring 2013)***
All Students	23,182	4.7%	29.5%
Female	12,086	4.9%	34.6%
Male	11,096	4.5%	24.0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	160	6.9%	21.3%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1,022	2.1%	28.0%
African-American	1,157	2.2%	15.4%
Hispanic	3,480	5.7%	20.4%
White (not Hispanic)	17,363	4.8%	32.5%

*Attainment rates are unduplicated. If a student earned two credentials, they are counted only once.
**Enrolled in a public, in-state college.
***The four year calculation is cumulative but unduplicated; it includes students who earned credentials during the first two years, but only counts them once.

Female and male students have almost identical credential attainment rates when looking at the two year marker (4.9% and 4.5%, respectively). After four years in college, however, females outpace males in credential attainment—34.6 percent compared to 24 percent, respectively. Nearly 7 percent of the American Indian/Alaskan Native students in this cohort earned a credential within two years of entering college compared to only 2.2 percent of African-American students. Four years after entering college, 32.5 percent of white students had earned some type of certificate or degree compared to 15.4 percent of African-American students and 20.4 percent of Hispanic students.

Figure 10. 2009 High School Graduates
Number of Credentials Awarded, by Credential Type after Four Years



Conclusion

This report is intended to summarize and identify trends in postsecondary education for four cohorts of Colorado high school graduates, with particular attention paid to the most recent cohort. The report tracks the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 high school graduating classes and describes student enrollment and progress one year following graduation. The data are disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity to further identify patterns.

New to this year's report is a section on credential attainment. Four years after high school graduation, nearly 30 percent of the 2009 graduates who immediately enrolled in a public, in-state college had earned some type of postsecondary credential, whether it be a certificate, associate degree or bachelor's degree. This information is an exciting addition to the report as it allows us to further measure the postsecondary progress of Colorado's high school graduates and to identify where in the educational pipeline we are losing students. For example, male students are just as likely as female students to have earned some type of credential within two years of entering college. When looking at four years after postsecondary entrance, however, males have fallen 10 percentage points behind females in credential attainment. Future research from the Department of Higher Education will analyze what is causing these short-term trends and will consider if credential completion and attainment rates improve over a longer time period.

About this Report

The Colorado Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Department of Education have collaborated to provide this information with the intent that high schools and colleges can use these data to better evaluate their programs and policies and so that the state can better align the K-12 and higher education systems. To make this information easily accessible to the public, CDHE, with financial support from the Lumina Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, created a searchable database and individualized district profiles. The project, known as District at a Glance, is housed on CDHE's website at http://highered.colorado.gov/Data/DistrictHSSummary.aspx.

This work is a part of the ongoing implementation of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K), which includes a series of initiatives aimed at ensuring that all students are prepared to move seamlessly from high school into higher education and then into the workforce. Information on statewide P-20 initiatives, including District at a Glance, Graduation Guidelines, Concurrent Enrollment, Colorado Academic Standards, educator preparation and more, can be found on the CDHE website at http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/P20/.

Appendix A: District-Level Statistics

Postsecondary Enrollment by District, High School Graduating Class of 2012

** is shown in place of counts 10 or less*

District Name	High School Graduates	Total College Enrollment		In-State Enrollment		Out-of-State Enrollment		% Not Enrolled in College
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	
ACADEMY 20	1,781	1,321	74.2%	931	52.3%	390	21.9%	25.8%
ADAMS COUNTY 14	358	96	26.8%	91	25.4%	5	1.4%	73.2%
ADAMS-ARAPAHOE 28J	1,749	702	40.1%	627	35.8%	75	4.3%	59.9%
AGUILAR REORGANIZED 6	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
AKRON R-1	32	18	56.3%	13	40.6%	5	15.6%	43.8%
ALAMOSA RE-11J	133	78	58.6%	67	50.4%	11	8.3%	41.4%
ARCHULETA COUNTY 50 JT	98	60	61.2%	45	45.9%	15	15.3%	38.8%
ARICKAREE R-2	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARRIBA-FLAGLER C-20	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ASPEN 1	145	110	75.9%	56	38.6%	54	37.2%	24.1%
AULT-HIGHLAND RE-9	58	19	32.8%	15	25.9%	4	6.9%	67.2%
BAYFIELD 10 JT-R	84	45	53.6%	35	41.7%	10	11.9%	46.4%
BENNETT 29J	91	53	58.2%	47	51.6%	6	6.6%	41.8%
BETHUNE R-5	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
BIG SANDY 100J	20	16	80.0%	14	70.0%	2	10.0%	20.0%
BOULDER VALLEY RE 2	2,244	1,548	69.0%	1,012	45.1%	536	23.9%	31.0%
BRANSON REORGANIZED 82	25	9	36.0%	9	36.0%	0	0.0%	64.0%
BRIGGSDALE RE-10	12	7	58.3%	6	50.0%	1	8.3%	41.7%
BRIGHTON 27J	652	285	43.7%	235	36.0%	50	7.7%	56.3%
BRUSH RE-2(J)	88	55	62.5%	42	47.7%	13	14.8%	37.5%
BUENA VISTA R-31	90	58	64.4%	49	54.4%	9	10.0%	35.6%
BUFFALO RE-4	22	16	72.7%	15	68.2%	1	4.5%	27.3%
BURLINGTON RE-6J	54	30	55.6%	20	37.0%	10	18.5%	44.4%
BYERS 32J	27	18	66.7%	14	51.9%	4	14.8%	33.3%
CALHAN RJ-1	40	19	47.5%	17	42.5%	2	5.0%	52.5%
CAMPO RE-6	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
CANON CITY RE-1	262	99	37.8%	79	30.2%	20	7.6%	62.2%
CENTENNIAL BOCES	57	7	12.3%	7	12.3%	0	0.0%	87.7%
CENTENNIAL R-1	18	9	50.0%	9	50.0%	0	0.0%	50.0%
CENTER 26 JT	36	17	47.2%	17	47.2%	0	0.0%	52.8%
CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE	544	193	35.5%	160	29.4%	33	6.1%	64.5%
CHERAW 31	16	11	68.8%	10	62.5%	1	6.3%	31.3%
CHERRY CREEK 5	3,517	2,303	65.5%	1,625	46.2%	678	19.3%	34.5%
CHEYENNE COUNTY RE-5	11	6	54.5%	3	27.3%	3	27.3%	45.5%
CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN 12	318	244	76.7%	157	49.4%	87	27.4%	23.3%
CLEAR CREEK RE-1	63	35	55.6%	28	44.4%	7	11.1%	44.4%
COLORADO SPRINGS 11	1,903	893	46.9%	731	38.4%	162	8.5%	53.1%
COTOPAXI RE-3	12	7	58.3%	7	58.3%	0	0.0%	41.7%

District Name	High School Graduates	Total College Enrollment		In-State Enrollment		Out-of-State Enrollment		% Not Enrolled in College
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	
CREEDE CONSOLIDATED 1	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
CRIPPLE CREEK-VICTOR RE-1	34	16	47.1%	14	41.2%	2	5.9%	52.9%
CROWLEY COUNTY RE-1-J	42	24	57.1%	24	57.1%	0	0.0%	42.9%
CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT C-1	37	19	51.4%	14	37.8%	5	13.5%	48.6%
DE BEQUE 49JT	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
DEER TRAIL 26J	20	10	50.0%	2	10.0%	8	40.0%	50.0%
DEL NORTE C-7	33	20	60.6%	17	51.5%	3	9.1%	39.4%
DELTA COUNTY 50(J)	402	159	39.6%	121	30.1%	38	9.5%	60.4%
DENVER COUNTY 1	3,738	1,784	47.7%	1,460	39.1%	324	8.7%	52.3%
DOLORES COUNTY RE NO.2	18	12	66.7%	8	44.4%	4	22.2%	33.3%
DOLORES RE-4A	36	20	55.6%	17	47.2%	3	8.3%	44.4%
DOUGLAS COUNTY RE 1	3,779	2,609	69.0%	1,894	50.1%	715	18.9%	31.0%
DURANGO 9-R	313	192	61.3%	138	44.1%	54	17.3%	38.7%
EADS RE-1	14	9	64.3%	5	35.7%	4	28.6%	35.7%
EAGLE COUNTY RE 50	358	191	53.4%	142	39.7%	49	13.7%	46.6%
EAST GRAND 2	81	46	56.8%	32	39.5%	14	17.3%	43.2%
EAST OTERO R-1	92	57	62.0%	44	47.8%	13	14.1%	38.0%
EATON RE-2	96	60	62.5%	48	50.0%	12	12.5%	37.5%
EDISON 54 JT	34	14	41.2%	12	35.3%	2	5.9%	58.8%
ELBERT 200	12	9	75.0%	6	50.0%	3	25.0%	25.0%
ELIZABETH C-1	175	103	58.9%	77	44.0%	26	14.9%	41.1%
ELLICOTT 22	51	19	37.3%	14	27.5%	5	9.8%	62.7%
ENGLEWOOD 1	230	59	25.7%	50	21.7%	9	3.9%	74.3%
EXPEDITIONARY BOCES	23	13	56.5%	9	39.1%	4	17.4%	43.5%
FALCON 49	882	444	50.3%	367	41.6%	77	8.7%	49.7%
FLORENCE RE-2	105	50	47.6%	45	42.9%	5	4.8%	52.4%
FORT MORGAN RE-3	203	106	52.2%	92	45.3%	14	6.9%	47.8%
FOUNTAIN 8	345	177	51.3%	140	40.6%	37	10.7%	48.7%
FOWLER R-4J	27	17	63.0%	14	51.9%	3	11.1%	37.0%
FRENCHMAN RE-3	13	11	84.6%	7	53.8%	4	30.8%	15.4%
GARFIELD 16	63	24	38.1%	22	34.9%	2	3.2%	61.9%
GARFIELD RE-2	219	111	50.7%	95	43.4%	16	7.3%	49.3%
GENOA-HUGO C113	8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
GILPIN COUNTY RE-1	12	7	58.3%	7	58.3%	0	0.0%	41.7%
GRANADA RE-1	15	11	73.3%	10	66.7%	1	6.7%	26.7%
GREELEY 6	1,191	568	47.7%	508	42.7%	60	5.0%	52.3%
GUNNISON WATERSHED RE1J	106	67	63.2%	57	53.8%	10	9.4%	36.8%
HANOVER 28	12	3	25.0%	2	16.7%	1	8.3%	75.0%
HARRISON 2	424	202	47.6%	182	42.9%	20	4.7%	52.4%
HAXTUN RE-2J	20	10	50.0%	7	35.0%	3	15.0%	50.0%

District Name	High School Graduates	Total College Enrollment		In-State Enrollment		Out-of-State Enrollment		% Not Enrolled in College
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	
HAYDEN RE-1	26	15	57.7%	11	42.3%	4	15.4%	42.3%
HINSDALE COUNTY RE 1	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
HI-PLAINS R-23	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
HOEHNE REORGANIZED 3	21	17	81.0%	14	66.7%	3	14.3%	19.0%
HOLLY RE-3	20	17	85.0%	9	45.0%	8	40.0%	15.0%
HOLYOKE RE-1J	44	24	54.5%	15	34.1%	9	20.5%	45.5%
HUERFANO RE-1	39	23	59.0%	22	56.4%	1	2.6%	41.0%
IDALIA RJ-3	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
IGNACIO 11 JT	46	18	39.1%	14	30.4%	4	8.7%	60.9%
JEFFERSON COUNTY R-1	6,098	3,889	63.8%	3,202	52.5%	687	11.3%	36.2%
JOHNSTOWN-MILLIKEN RE-5J	148	94	63.5%	77	52.0%	17	11.5%	36.5%
JULESBURG RE-1	130	60	46.2%	44	33.8%	16	12.3%	53.8%
KARVAL RE-23	36	12	33.3%	9	25.0%	3	8.3%	66.7%
KEENESBURG RE-3(J)	146	53	36.3%	47	32.2%	6	4.1%	63.7%
KIM REORGANIZED 88	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
KIOWA C-2	26	13	50.0%	10	38.5%	3	11.5%	50.0%
KIT CARSON R-1	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA VETA RE-2	19	16	84.2%	14	73.7%	2	10.5%	15.8%
LAKE COUNTY R-1	49	25	51.0%	24	49.0%	1	2.0%	49.0%
LAMAR RE-2	88	57	64.8%	52	59.1%	5	5.7%	35.2%
LAS ANIMAS RE-1	28	18	64.3%	15	53.6%	3	10.7%	35.7%
LEWIS-PALMER 38	491	349	71.1%	244	49.7%	105	21.4%	28.9%
LIBERTY J-4	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
LIMON RE-4J	49	31	63.3%	16	32.7%	15	30.6%	36.7%
LITTLETON 6	1,265	901	71.2%	609	48.1%	292	23.1%	28.8%
LONE STAR 101	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
MANCOS RE-6	25	12	48.0%	10	40.0%	2	8.0%	52.0%
MANITOU SPRINGS 14	119	76	63.9%	58	48.7%	18	15.1%	36.1%
MANZANOLA 3J	14	7	50.0%	6	42.9%	1	7.1%	50.0%
MAPLETON 1	330	115	34.8%	104	31.5%	11	3.3%	65.2%
MC CLAVE RE-2	23	16	69.6%	16	69.6%	0	0.0%	30.4%
MEEKER RE1	37	25	67.6%	18	48.6%	7	18.9%	32.4%
MESA COUNTY VALLEY 51	1,458	764	52.4%	644	44.2%	120	8.2%	47.6%
MIAMI/YODER 60 JT	15	5	33.3%	5	33.3%	0	0.0%	66.7%
MOFFAT 2	17	7	41.2%	7	41.2%	0	0.0%	58.8%
MOFFAT COUNTY RE:NO 1	122	66	54.1%	51	41.8%	15	12.3%	45.9%
MONTE VISTA C-8	84	39	46.4%	36	42.9%	3	3.6%	53.6%
MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ RE-1	157	73	46.5%	53	33.8%	20	12.7%	53.5%
MONTROSE COUNTY RE-1J	399	199	49.9%	164	41.1%	35	8.8%	50.1%
MOUNTAIN BOCES	79	11	13.9%	11	13.9%	0	0.0%	86.1%
MOUNTAIN VALLEY RE 1	8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

District Name	High School Graduates	Total College Enrollment		In-State Enrollment		Out-of-State Enrollment		% Not Enrolled in College
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	
NORTH CONEJOS RE-1J	78	31	39.7%	27	34.6%	4	5.1%	60.3%
NORTH PARK R-1	12	6	50.0%	6	50.0%	0	0.0%	50.0%
NORTHGLENN-THORNTON (ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS)	2,376	1,195	50.3%	1,035	43.6%	160	6.7%	49.7%
NORWOOD R-2J	16	11	68.8%	8	50.0%	3	18.8%	31.3%
OTIS R-3	17	10	58.8%	7	41.2%	3	17.6%	41.2%
OURAY R-1	21	8	38.1%	7	33.3%	1	4.8%	61.9%
PARK (ESTES PARK) R-3	80	56	70.0%	48	60.0%	8	10.0%	30.0%
PARK COUNTY RE-2	20	13	65.0%	10	50.0%	3	15.0%	35.0%
PAWNEE RE-12	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PEYTON 23 JT	43	23	53.5%	18	41.9%	5	11.6%	46.5%
PLAINVIEW RE-2	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLATEAU RE-5	11	10	90.9%	3	27.3%	7	63.6%	9.1%
PLATEAU VALLEY 50	91	24	26.4%	17	18.7%	7	7.7%	73.6%
PLATTE CANYON 1	71	34	47.9%	30	42.3%	4	5.6%	52.1%
PLATTE VALLEY RE-3	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PLATTE VALLEY RE-7	92	58	63.0%	48	52.2%	10	10.9%	37.0%
POUDRE R-1	1,930	1,219	63.2%	881	45.6%	338	17.5%	36.8%
PRAIRIE RE-11	13	6	46.2%	3	23.1%	3	23.1%	53.8%
PRIMERO REORGANIZED 2	11	7	63.6%	5	45.5%	2	18.2%	36.4%
PRITCHETT RE-3	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PUEBLO CITY 60	985	536	54.4%	484	49.1%	52	5.3%	45.6%
PUEBLO COUNTY RURAL 70	600	336	56.0%	289	48.2%	47	7.8%	44.0%
RANGELY RE-4	20	11	55.0%	9	45.0%	2	10.0%	45.0%
RIDGWAY R-2	21	16	76.2%	7	33.3%	9	42.9%	23.8%
ROARING FORK RE-1	338	193	57.1%	153	45.3%	40	11.8%	42.9%
ROCKY FORD R-2	42	29	69.0%	28	66.7%	1	2.4%	31.0%
SALIDA R-32	68	29	42.6%	25	36.8%	4	5.9%	57.4%
SAN JUAN BOCES	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
SANFORD 6J	20	15	75.0%	11	55.0%	4	20.0%	25.0%
SANGRE DE CRISTO RE-22J	24	11	45.8%	11	45.8%	0	0.0%	54.2%
SARGENT RE-33J	26	18	69.2%	15	57.7%	3	11.5%	30.8%
SHERIDAN 2	81	22	27.2%	20	24.7%	2	2.5%	72.8%
SIERRA GRANDE R-30	20	10	50.0%	9	45.0%	1	5.0%	50.0%
SILVERTON 1	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
SOUTH CONEJOS RE-10	18	7	38.9%	6	33.3%	1	5.6%	61.1%
SOUTH ROUTT RE 3	26	15	57.7%	8	30.8%	7	26.9%	42.3%
SPRINGFIELD RE-4	21	7	33.3%	6	28.6%	1	4.8%	66.7%
ST VRAIN VALLEY RE 1J	1,520	913	60.1%	725	47.7%	188	12.4%	39.9%
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS RE-2	149	107	71.8%	71	47.7%	36	24.2%	28.2%
STRASBURG 31J	85	47	55.3%	40	47.1%	7	8.2%	44.7%
STRATTON R-4	13	7	53.8%	2	15.4%	5	38.5%	46.2%

District Name	High School Graduates	Total College Enrollment		In-State Enrollment		Out-of-State Enrollment		% Not Enrolled in College
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	
SUMMIT RE-1	197	132	67.0%	101	51.3%	31	15.7%	33.0%
SWINK 33	29	25	86.2%	19	65.5%	6	20.7%	13.8%
TELLURIDE R-1	41	30	73.2%	17	41.5%	13	31.7%	26.8%
THOMPSON R-2J	1,026	555	54.1%	440	42.9%	115	11.2%	45.9%
TRINIDAD 1	114	72	63.2%	65	57.0%	7	6.1%	36.8%
VALLEY RE-1	149	93	62.4%	78	52.3%	15	10.1%	37.6%
VILAS RE-5	34	16	47.1%	8	23.5%	8	23.5%	52.9%
WALSH RE-1	13	4	30.8%	3	23.1%	1	7.7%	69.2%
WELD COUNTY RE-1	90	55	61.1%	49	54.4%	6	6.7%	38.9%
WELD COUNTY S/D RE-8	128	45	35.2%	36	28.1%	9	7.0%	64.8%
WELDON VALLEY RE-20(J)	11	5	45.5%	5	45.5%	0	0.0%	54.5%
WEST END RE-2	12	6	50.0%	3	25.0%	3	25.0%	50.0%
WEST GRAND 1-JT.	23	15	65.2%	8	34.8%	7	30.4%	34.8%
WESTMINSTER 50	435	155	35.6%	140	32.2%	15	3.4%	64.4%
WIDEFIELD 3	550	279	50.7%	231	42.0%	48	8.7%	49.3%
WIGGINS RE-50(J)	36	22	61.1%	18	50.0%	4	11.1%	38.9%
WILEY RE-13 JT	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WINDSOR RE-4	239	154	64.4%	132	55.2%	22	9.2%	35.6%
WOODLAND PARK RE-2	215	105	48.8%	81	37.7%	24	11.2%	51.2%
WOODLIN R-104	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WRAY RD-2	41	18	43.9%	9	22.0%	9	22.0%	56.1%
YUMA 1	50	24	48.0%	17	34.0%	7	14.0%	52.0%

Appendix B: Technical Information

Methodology and Data

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 available dating back to the 2009 high school graduating class. The academic years referred to in the report coincide with the following fall entry into college of the high school graduates. For example, the 2012 high school graduates tracked in this report enrolled in college in fall 2012. Please note that the report on the 2010 high school graduates (published in 2012) calculated college matriculation by considering high school graduates who enrolled in college within 18 months of graduating. This year's report continues the methodology that was used in last year's report and calculates college matriculation based upon those students who enrolled in college in the fall immediately following high school graduation.

Numerous national organizations, such as the National Center for Higher Education Management Statistics, and several states, including Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia, follow a 6 month reporting period to define college-going rates. The majority of students who attend college do so immediately following high school graduation. The college going-rate, therefore, can been seen as an indicator of both the accessibility of and the value of college. Upon high school graduation, students are confronted with several choices including attending college, entering the workforce, or joining the military. Measuring how many students choose to enroll immediately in college reflects how attending college ranks among other post-high school options. Further, looking at college-going rates for different ethnic/racial groups and for low-income students can provide insight into college access issues.

Data Collection: Data were collected through the DHE Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS), and SASIDs were obtained from CDE. Additionally, data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) were linked to provide out-of-state enrollment information, as well as information on private institutions in Colorado not included in SURDS.

- **Report Format:** The report presents information in four parts:
    1. Postsecondary enrollment trends, including information on in-state and out-of-state enrollment and institution type, 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 level, disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.
    3. First year retention rates.
    4. Postsecondary credential attainment information.

- **Data Limitations:** Data in part two of the report are limited to schools included in SURDS (i.e., all public Colorado colleges and universities, plus Colorado Christian University, Regis University, and the University of Denver). Future reports will be able to track college matriculation in Colorado into an additional 50 degree granting private institutions.

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