How should Colorado define accessibility?

 "Students First": The ability of Colorado students to access, and have the opportunity to succeed in, higher education.

Accessibility definition "straw proposal":

Broad definition.

Statement that describes what Colorado means by accessibility.

o Principles.

 List of principles that should be considered in reaching and maintaining accessibility goals.

Performance Indicators.

o Indicators to monitor and assess progress towards accessibility.

o Recommendations.

o List of recommended actions to be taken to address accessibility.

Accessibility definition options:

Statement:

Colorado provides a flexible, integrated system of higher education and training opportunities, which is available to, and raises the educational aspirations of, all Coloradans.

Description:

In Colorado, we describe accessibility to higher education as follows:

- All Colorado residents who want to receive education beyond high school have an opportunity to do so through Colorado's system of higher education and training.
- Alternative and flexible forms of higher education and training are available that provide Colorado residents the opportunity to attend and succeed in education and training beyond high school.
- Barriers to higher education and training from a student's perspective are identified and addressed by our Colorado's higher education and training system.
- Specifically, Colorado provides alternative, flexible means of higher education and training which make it
 - Affordable for Colorado residents of all income levels to obtain higher education and training.
 - Possible for Colorado residents in different geographic locations throughout the state to obtain higher education and training,
 - Promising for Colorado residents in underrepresented populations and with non-traditional backgrounds to obtain higher education and training.

[Colorado believes that attaining the following goals will demonstrate progress toward accessibility to higher education and training in our state.

List goals. Governor's Colorado Promise?]

Principles (to consider in reaching and maintaining accessibility goals).

- Higher education and training is a critical component for success and financial independence for every Coloradan.
- All Coloradans should be encouraged to value, pursue and achieve higher education and training for themselves and their families.
- All Coloradans seeking higher education should be accommodated by institutions that can meet their needs.
- Collaborative, system wide solutions, through memoranda of understanding and other vehicles, are critical to providing a system response to student needs.
- Strategies targeted to underserved and non-traditional students, such as "early warning systems" and "mentoring", are critical to retaining these students through their higher learning experience.
- Post secondary preparation should be a goal of primary and secondary education.
- Colorado's economy, now and into the future, depends on a well educated workforce, trained with the right skills to meet the needs of Colorado's employers.
- The education and training of Coloradans should provide the highest possible quality learning experience to meet the demands of our economy.
- Strategies effective with underserved populations, such as affinity groups, are effective when used in the general populations as well.