



# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

John Hickenlooper  
Governor

Lt. Gov. Joseph A. Garcia  
Executive Director

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Commissioner of Education

## *PRESS RELEASE*

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### *Higher Education and K-12 move College and Career Readiness forward*

DENVER – Colorado joins other states in adopting common measures for determining students’ readiness for college and careers.

As Colorado’s representatives to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC), Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia and Education Commissioner Robert Hammond cast two of the unanimous votes to adopt the College- and Career-Ready Determination (CCRD) policy and Policy-Level Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) on October 25 with other member states. This action represents a significant milestone in the development of the PARCC consortium’s assessment program to date and exemplifies the strong collaboration between K-12 and higher education state systems.

The CCRD Policy defines the level of academic preparation in English language arts/literacy and mathematics needed for students to be successful in entry-level, credit-bearing courses in two- and four-year public institutions of higher education. This minimum standard will help realize the alignment of K-12 standards and college admission and placement policies in PARCC states like Colorado.

“Four years ago, Colorado was the first state in the nation to chart a course toward a fully aligned P-20 system of standards and assessments,” stated Lt. Governor Garcia. “With the adoption of these new performance level descriptors, we are one step closer to completing a system of education in which all students are prepared for the rigors of college and careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Hammond echoed the power of the K-12/higher education partnership in supporting students’ college readiness.

This action builds on years of Colorado’s foundational work first outlined in CAP4K legislation (Colorado Senate Bill 08-212) which provided a framework for formally aligning Colorado’s K-12 and post-secondary system. The decision also moves the state one step closer to ensuring that all high school graduates are prepared to meet the expectations of today’s employers and colleges.

Colorado and other state leaders in the PARCC consortium share a fundamental goal; building their collective capacity to dramatically increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for success in college and the workplace.

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For more information about PARCC and the CCRD policy, visit:

<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-charts-pathway-college-and-career-readiness>