

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Lt. Gov. Joseph A. Garcia

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Lt. Gov. Garcia announces strong results for state's concurrent enrollment programs

DENVER – Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013 – Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia today released the Colorado Department of Higher Education's and Colorado Department of Education's 2011-2012 Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment. Concurrent enrollment programs include all programs where students are simultaneously enrolled in high school and in one or more postsecondary level courses.

With increasing numbers of students participating in dual enrollment programs, Colorado is emerging as a national leader in easing the transition for students from high school graduation to earning a postsecondary credential. Approximately 24,000 or 19 percent of Colorado's high school students participate in dual enrollment programs. Overall participation increased by 15.5 percent over the past school year. On average, more than 85 percent of the participating students enrolled in college.

“Concurrent Enrollment programs blur the lines between high school and college and help more students get a head-start earning college credits before stepping foot on a college campus,” said Garcia. “Taking college-level classes in high school bolsters student confidence and improves the likelihood these students will continue on to earn a postsecondary credential.”

Seen as a key strategy of Colorado's Master Plan for college completion, concurrent enrollment programs improve academic success for first-year college students. These students have higher first-year retention rates, a positive predictor for future degree attainment. More than three-quarters of concurrent enrollment students passed all their courses while 12 percent received partial credit.

In 2011-12, the number of higher education institutions participating in concurrent enrollment agreements grew to 18 while the number of participating high schools increased to 304, representing 64 percent of all high schools in Colorado.

“Dual Enrollment programs allow students to cross the finish line of high school graduation while still having all the support of a high school environment. Through this program, students can see unique relevance of their high school work through a new lens of how it connects to their future,” said Commissioner Robert Hammond. “Looking at our success rates over the last couple of years, Colorado should be proud that we have about 500 students who have graduated high

school who already have post-secondary credentials.”

For a complete copy of the Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment 2011-2012 School Year, [click here](#).

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