



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Higher Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Remediation rates up slightly for 2014-15 academic year**

DENVER – May 27, 2016: The number of Colorado high school graduates needing remediation when entering college increased slightly in 2014-2015 over the previous year from 34.2 percent to 35.4 percent, according to this year’s remediation report. That amounts to 7,472 students needing remediation.

Remedial courses are basic skills courses designed for students who lack the academic competencies necessary to succeed in a college-level curriculum. Remedial education, remediation, not college ready and developmental education are used interchangeably throughout the report.

Historically, the state has seen a downward trend in the number of students needing remediation. Despite a small increase in the percent of students requiring remediation in 2014-15, there have been pockets of positive and incremental movement in the right direction towards all college students being ready and successful, with the ultimate hope of earning a credential.

“The goal here is to increase the number of residents in Colorado with a high-quality, postsecondary credential,” said Chief Student Success & Academic Affairs Officer at the Colorado Department of Higher Education Dr. Timothy Flanagan. “The good news is that of the students needing remediation, more than 62 percent complete their remedial course.”

Other report highlights:

- Of the 22,853 high school graduates who entered college in Colorado, 7,472 students were not college ready and required at least one remedial course.
- About 38.6 percent of college female students were not college ready compared to 31.7 percent of college males.
- At two-year institutions, 82 percent of Black, non-Hispanic students required developmental education. At four-year institutions, 52.5 percent of Black, non-Hispanic students required developmental education.
- At two-year institutions, almost 70 percent of Hispanic students required developmental education. At four-year institutions, 39 percent of Hispanic students required developmental education.
- Of Free and Reduced Lunch program participants, 53 percent were not college ready compared to 31.4 percent of non-FRL students who were not college ready.
- When examining remediation by subject, most students required remediation in mathematics.
- For the second year, remedial students had higher first year retention rates than non-remedial students at community colleges.

- At the four-year college and university level, the retention rate for students not assigned to remediation was 76.7 percent, compared to 61.4 percent for those needing remediation.
- More than 62 percent of all remedial courses were completed successfully, an increase from the previous year.
- Combined, the estimated cost to the state and estimated tuition cost to the student for remedial courses was approximately \$39.3 million in 2014-2015. This is a \$7.8 million dollar savings from last year due to fewer students taking remedial courses and fewer courses being offered.

The data used in this remedial report was gathered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education for academic year 2014-2015 as required by statute. [Read the complete report.](#)

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