



STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Q. What is District at a Glance?

A. District at a Glance is a Department of Higher Education information-sharing project that follows Colorado's high school graduates into college and provides information on college enrollment, first-year college outcomes, concurrent enrollment and remedial education. The [two-page profiles](#) look at Colorado's High School Class of 2011. Information on high school graduates from prior years (dating back to 2009) can be found in the searchable [District at a Glance database](#).

Q. Why are these guides being released?

A. By 2020, 74 percent of Colorado's jobs will require education beyond high school, according to the [Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforce](#). As part of the ongoing implementation of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids, higher education and K-12 have been working together to meet these workforce needs. District at a Glance is a part of those P-20 efforts. The data on the success of high school graduates will enable us to better evaluate our programs and policies.

Q. Who is the intended audience for these guides and how are they being distributed?

A. This project is intended to inform the K-12 and higher education communities, as well as state policymakers, students and their families, and other interested stakeholders. Copies of the guides are being mailed to K-12 superintendents and the data are available on the Department of Higher Education website, in PDF format for easy printing and in a searchable database.

Q. Where does this information come from?

A. This project relies on data from the Department of Higher Education, the Colorado Department of Education and the National Student Clearinghouse:

- *K-12 to College* - Data between the two state agencies are connected through the State Assigned Student ID, known as SASID, which is given to all public K-12 students.
- *In-state Colleges* - As students move into college, data also are collected using the Student Unit Record Data System or SURDS, a database which includes information from all Colorado public colleges and universities as well as the University of Denver, Regis University and Colorado Christian University.
- *Out-of-state Colleges* - The National Student Clearinghouse database is used to collect information on enrollment and retention rates for Colorado high school graduates who attend out-of-state institutions or private institutions that are currently not included in SURDS.

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Q. Can I get this information by high school instead of by district?

A. Yes, please contact [Brenda Bautsch](#), research and policy information officer at the Department of Higher Education, for high school-level information.

Q. Are all districts included?

A. No. Because of concerns about student privacy, districts with fewer than 25 graduates were not included in this project. Please contact [Brenda Bautsch](#) if you would like to explore options for seeing student data from small districts.

Q. How is the college enrollment rate calculated?

A. District at a Glance calculates college enrollment 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, follow a six-month reporting period to define college-going rates. The majority of students who attend college do so immediately following high school graduation.

Q. How is the remedial education rate calculated?

A. The remedial education rate reported in District at a Glance includes both students assessed as needing remediation and those enrolled in remedial courses who did not have an assessment score on file. This method was developed in consultation with researchers in higher education, the Colorado Department of Education and several school districts. Please see the [DHE webpage](#) on remedial education for more information.

Q. What are the next steps of this project?

A. Researchers at the Department of Higher Education will continue to work with schools and school districts to provide information and guidance on college outcomes. In spring 2014, high school-level data will be added to the District at a Glance web [database](#). In addition, analysis of college enrollment and progress trends for student groups, such as low-income students, will be conducted.

Q. How is this project funded?

A. Support for District at a Glance is provided by the Core to College grant program, which aims to foster long-term collaboration between higher education and K-12. The goal is to improve student achievement and college readiness and, ultimately, to increase rates of enrollment and graduation. Funding for Core to College is provided by [Lumina Foundation](#), the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) and the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). DHE is grateful for the support provided by these foundations for this important work.