COLORADO
Colorado Commission on Higher Education
Department of Higher Education

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Resolution in Support of Colorado Academic Standards

WHEREAS, the Colorado Academic Standards define what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade level and advance equity of outcomes for students by setting a bar for student performance, defining the floor but not the ceiling of student learning; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Academic Standards are informed by standards in top performing countries, early childhood through secondary education leaders, higher education faculty, national content experts, leaders from business and the military, and public feedback; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Chief State School Officers (a non-partisan organization of state commissioners of education) and the National Governor's Association (a bi-partisan organization of state governors) came together to start the Common Core State Standards Initiative to develop voluntary standards in mathematics and English language arts that states could use to ensure all students graduated from high school college- and career-ready; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was among six states asked to provide early feedback on the initial drafts of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and a subsequent gap analysis confirmed close alignment of the Colorado Academic Standards with Common Core State Standards; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English language arts on August 2, 2010 and the Common Core State Standards were woven into the Colorado Academic Standards while also including components unique to Colorado, such as personal financial literacy; and

WHEREAS, forty-five states and the District of Columbia have signed on to the Common Core State Standards, which will help ensure that students from those states who choose to attend Colorado colleges and universities are well-prepared and will not need remediation; and

WHEREAS, the standards make possible the following higher education initiatives that support access and completion for Colorado students: Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) endorsed diplomas, aligned and reliable 11th grade assessment scores in English Language Arts (ELA) and math that will be a good indicator of students' college and career readiness and lead to appropriate placement in college coursework, aligned Individualized Career and Academic

Plans (ICAPs) to help students demonstrate their college and career readiness insofar as their mastery of 21st Century Skills, and transitional coursework that high school seniors can take if the 11th grade assessment identifies them as not being on track to graduate college and career ready.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education strongly supports the Colorado Academic Standards.

Adopted this ninth day of May, two thousand and fourteen.

Richard Kaufman
Chairman, Colorado Commission on Higher Education