



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

Summary: 2013 Legislative Report on Remedial Education
Need for remediation drops 3 percentage points to 37 percent of H.S. graduates

May 15, 2014 - This year's remedial report finds a 3 percentage point drop in the need for remediation in Colorado, which reflects the impact of a variety of innovative initiatives aimed at reducing the remedial rate.

Remedial courses - which cost students time and money and do not result in course credit - are a known barrier to a student success. Students funneled into remedial courses have far lower completion rates than those students not required to take a remedial course. Hispanic, black and low-income students are disproportionately represented as needing remediation.

The data used in this remedial report was gathered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education for academic year 2012-2013 as required by statute. New this year, remedial rates for high schools have been calculated based upon two high school cohorts. The first is the completer cohort, which matches last year's report, and is based upon the academic year. In this cohort, early and late graduates are folded into the same class based upon the year. The second cohort is the on-time graduation cohort in which a student is assigned a graduating class that does not change over time.

Highlights from Academic Year 2012-13

- Overall, the percentage of the 2012 high school graduates placed into remediation in at least one subject was 37 percent, an improvement from the previous year's 40 percent.
- Almost 78 percent of Hispanic students enrolled at a two-year college required remedial education compared to 38 percent at four-year institutions.
- Fifty-nine percent of Free and Reduced Lunch participants were not college ready at the time of enrollment compared to 31 percent of non-FRL students.
- When examining remediation by subject, most students required remediation in mathematics, followed by writing and then reading.
- For the first time, remedial students had higher first year retention rates than non-remedial students at community colleges.
- Approximately 62 percent of all remedial courses were completed successfully, an increase over last year's 59 percent.
- Combined, the estimated cost to the state and estimated tuition cost to the student for remedial courses amount to approximately \$56.1 million.

Alternatives to remediation

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education is focused on increasing the number of residents aged 25-34 who hold a high-quality, postsecondary credential to 66 percent. To reach this goal, and for Colorado to have an educated workforce to fill the 74 percent of jobs that will require a postsecondary credential by 2020, it is no longer enough to get students to college. Nearly all college students must be successful and earn a certificate or degree.

To this end, a number of initiatives across the state are targeted at reducing students' need for and lessening their time spent in remedial classes while simultaneously giving them the support they need to be successful. Here are examples of ongoing initiatives aimed at reducing the remedial rate:

- **Supplemental Academic Instruction** - SAI allows students “with limited academic deficiencies” at a four-year institution to get the academic support they need, such as tutoring labs or refresher courses, on campus rather than having to attend remedial courses off-site at a community college. For the community college system, it means fewer required remedial courses and, ideally, improved completion rates.
- **Concurrent enrollment** - Concurrent enrollment allows high school students to take credit-bearing college courses while still in high school. Participation in these programs is associated with a 23 percent increase in the likelihood of enrolling in college and a 10 percent decrease in the need for remediation. About 26,900 students participated in concurrent enrollment programs in the 2012-2013 school year, or 22 percent of all 11th and 12th graders in Colorado public high schools.
- **Colorado Academic Standards** - The Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education are working closely to align Colorado Academic standards with college readiness and college admission and placement policies, as required by the so-called 2008 CAP4K legislation. Under the CAP4K, Colorado’s admissions and remediation policies were revised to permit students to qualify for college by demonstrated proficiency vs. seat time. This will change the way students are assessed and placed into a remedial course and should decrease the number of students needing remediation.
- **Developmental education redesign** - In 2011, the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) implemented developmental education innovations statewide, including accelerated course sequencing, modularizing and contextualized curriculum, learning communities, test preparation strategies, combined courses, and mainstreaming. Additionally, CCCS is placing students with higher placement scores directly into a college level course; combining English and Reading into College Readiness Composition; and assigning a math curriculum based upon the student’s major, such as STEM vs. non-STEM. These strategies appear to be working as the remedial rates for community colleges decreased and retention rates increased.

Learn more about remedial education at
<http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/remedial/%20>