

**TOPIC: STATUS REPORT ON STAFF REVIEW OF THE 2010 HIGHER
EDUCATION ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

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I. BACKGROUND

Since 1986, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education has held the authority to establish statewide admission standards for public colleges and universities. In 2003, CCHE Academic Affairs Policy I, Part F (Admissions Standards Policy) was modified dramatically to include minimum academic coursework requirements, otherwise known as the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR). In March of 2006 representatives of the Rural Caucus attended the Commission meeting to raise concerns that existed with the 2010 Higher Education Admission Requirements. The Rural Caucus representatives were concerned with the limited resources that rural school districts have for their students to meet the 2010 requirements.

The Rural Caucus presentation resulted in a Commission directed staff review of the implementation of the 2010 HEAR. This information item and the attached documents are to serve as a status report and update on this review. Any recommended changes concerning the implementation of the 2010 HEAR will be brought to the Commission this summer.

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Following the adoption of the 2003 modifications to the CCHE Admissions Standards Policy, DHE staff received numerous requests from various constituent groups to clarify the intent of HEAR policy. After the Rural Caucus presentation in March of 2006, the Commission asked staff to determine the feasibility of implementation of the 2010 HEAR. DHE staff is currently in the final stages of a review process that may lead to a recommendation concerning the implementation of the 2010 requirements. During this review process, DHE staff has met with the Academic Council, Deans and Directors of Admission, the Rural Caucus, Data Advisory Group, and the State World Language Advisor Council. A summary of those meetings is included in the [attached memo](#).

DHE staff recognized several trends when facilitating the meetings about the 2010 HEAR policy. Significant among these are concerns about implementation barriers in the high schools, and in the admission processes at the postsecondary institutions. Current data suggests that the admission window size at some institutions is not large enough to accommodate applicants that would not meet the 2010 HEAR. This fact, in addition to the concerns that some high schools cannot accommodate teaching the requirements, could create a barrier in the admissions process for many students. There is little doubt among those involved in the meetings that students benefit from more rigorous high school experience. In fact Deans and Directors of Admissions and the Academic Council suggested that to remove from policy all rigor or coursework

requirements would be a mistake. These groups also believe keeping academic rigor as one of the requirements for admission is in the best interest of the state.

Moving forward DHE staff will meet with representatives of Colorado Education Association, the Colorado Association of School Boards, and the Colorado Association of School Executives. Upon completion of those meetings, DHE staff may put forward a recommendation for action by the Commission on the 2010 Higher Education Requirements. The nature of this action is not fully developed, but could include some flexibility in the implementation timeline of the additional 2010 requirement of mathematics and foreign language. Any proposed changes will be forwarded to the concerned parties prior to the Commission meeting so that those wishing to comment publicly are allowed ample time to.

III. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-108 C.R.S.

23-1-113 C.R.S.