

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education/ Colorado State Board of Education  
Meeting  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1940  
Denver, Co 80202  
August 15, 2013

State Board Chair Paul Lundeen called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

CCHE Chairman Dick Kaufman, Commissioners Luis Colon, Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes, Hereford Percy, Jim Polsfut, Kevin Reimer, Regina Rodriguez attended. Also in attendance were State Board of Education members, Paul Lundeen, Elaine Gantz Berman, Jane Goff, Marcia Neal, Pam Mazanec, Debora Scheffel and Angelika Schroeder.

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) welcomed both boards to the meeting.

Emmy Glancy, Academic Policy Officer, CDHE; and Endorsed Diploma Committee members, Scott Stump of Colorado Community College System, Mimi Leonard from Littleton Public Schools, Annie Evans from Jefferson County Public schools and Rich Patterson from Aurora Public Schools presented the Boards with an overview of the Endorsed Diploma Criteria, including the four elements, student benchmarks and timeline.

The criteria were developed by a Task Force created by CDHE and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). A PWR endorsed diploma identifies student excellence over and above a standard high school diploma. It signifies a student has thoughtfully planned for life after high school and is academically prepared for credit-bearing 100-level postsecondary coursework without the need for remediation. A student who graduates with a high school diploma that includes a PWR endorsement shall be guaranteed:

- 1) To meet minimum academic qualifications for admission to, and to be eligible, subject to additional institutional review of other admission and placement qualifications, for placement into credit-bearing courses at all open, modified open, or moderately selective public institutions of higher education in Colorado; and
- 2) To receive priority consideration, in conjunction with additional admissions criteria, and to be eligible, subject to additional institutional review of other admission and placement qualifications, for placement into credit-bearing courses at all other public institutions of higher education in Colorado. The additional admissions criteria shall be determined by each institution of higher education.

The criteria are described by the following four indicators:

1. STUDENT IS COLLEGE READY IN MATH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – student meets existing remedial education benchmarks, is ready for credit-bearing coursework in math and English language arts

2. STUDENT COMPLETES ICAP – student establishes and maintains an Individual Career and Academic Plan, per SB09-256
3. STUDENT DEMONSTRATES 21st CENTURY SKILLS
4. STUDENT DEMONSTRATES MASTERY OF ACADEMIC PREPARATION – student selects three content areas aligned to their post-high school

After some discussion, State Board member Marcia Neal moved that the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education jointly adopt the PWR Endorsed Diploma criteria. In so doing, a local school board, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), or institute charter high school may choose to endorse high school diplomas indicating that students have achieved postsecondary and workforce readiness.

Commissioner Happy Haynes seconded the motion.

The State Board adopted the PWR Endorsed Diploma by a vote of six to one. The Commission unanimously adopted the PWR Endorsed Diploma.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.