

**TOPIC: 2015 LEGISLATIVE REPORT ON THE POSTSECONDARY
PROGRESS AND SUCCESS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

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I. SUMMARY

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) is required to prepare an annual report on the postsecondary progress and success of the preceding six high school graduating classes. This report covers the high school graduating classes of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. This report is to be submitted to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, the State Board of Education and the Colorado Department of Education.

This report, the third of its kind, consists of four parts:

1. Postsecondary enrollment trends, including information on in-state and out-of-state enrollment and institution type, disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.
2. Information on first-year college students in Colorado, including financial aid status, average grade point average, credit accumulation and degree level, disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.
3. First year retention rates.
4. Information on postsecondary credential attainment.

This information also is available by school district on the DHE website in the District At A Glance searchable database.

II. BACKGROUND

C.R.S. 23-1-113(9) mandates that the Commission, as part of its implementation of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids, report to the General Assembly on the postsecondary progress and success of recent high school graduating classes. The report is to be disaggregated by school district, ethnicity, gender, and financial aid status.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Report attached.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is an information item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-113 (9)

(9) On or before February 15, 2012, and on or before February 15 each year thereafter, the department of higher education shall submit to the state board of education, the department of education, and the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, or any successor committees, a report, subject to available data, concerning the enrollment, placement and completion of basic skills courses, first-year college grades, and types of academic certificates and degrees attained at all postsecondary institutions in Colorado and the United States for the high school graduating classes of the preceding six academic years. The department of higher education shall report the information disaggregated by high school and school district of graduation, to the extent practicable, and by ethnicity, gender, financial aid status, and any other characteristic deemed relevant by the commission. The department of higher education and the department of education shall also make the report available on their respective web sites.