



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Higher Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Colorado Commission on Higher Education endorses Colorado Academic Standards**

May 9, 2014 - The Colorado Commission on Higher Education on Friday voted unanimously in favor of a resolution endorsing the Colorado Academic Standards.

The Colorado State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English language arts on Aug. 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.

Some 44 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.

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.

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.

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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);
- 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.

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