COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

CDHE Priorities in Response to COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, its impact threatens the public's health and the world's economy. In response, all industries – including postsecondary education – must adapt. The department continues to work with institutions to ensure that Colorado's higher education system is united in its response to support students and to produce the educated workforce essential to the Colorado economic future. CDHE's ongoing priorities are detailed below:

Priorities Communicated to the Governor

	Master Plan Goal	Roadmap Alignment
Waive requirements for the use of ACT/SAT in admissions, to ensure test cancellations due to COVID do not impact college-access	Goal 1: Credential Completion	
Help the College Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) pair state dollars with private investment to meet the needs of displaced workers and help them pursue industry-demanded credentials.	Goals 2 & 3: Erase Equity/ Student Success	S5
Maintain student financial aid and give institutions additional flexibility in how they allocate aid	Goal 4: Affordability & Innovation	
Protect the Open Education Resources (OER) program, which has saved students millions in course material fees by supporting the ongoing development of online course materials.	Goal 4: Affordability & Innovation	S3

Additional Priorities

	Master Plan Goal	Roadmap Alignment
Ensure all students have the technology they need to through the No Lapse in Learning Initiative	Goal 2: Erase Equity Gaps	
Minimize the impact of course interruptions on students and their progress toward a degree	Goal 1: Credential Completion	
Continue to explore opportunities to accelerate opportunities to expand the use of PLA to award transferrable credit for work-based learning credentials and experiences	Goal 1: Credential Completion	M5
Support institutions in implementing additional supplemental academic support and corequisite models to meet the needs of more students with developmental education needs	Goals 2 & 3: Erase Equity Gaps/ Student Success	M5
Support campus's efforts to provide students with basic needs by supporting one-stop, a platform that connects students to public benefits and working to develop a hunger-free checklist	Goals 2 & 3: Erase Equity Gaps/ Student Success	S6
Connecting displaced workers and high school graduates to postsecondary programs and pathways and make data and information available through My Colorado Journey and the accompanying data trust	Goals 1 & 4 : Credential Completion/ Affordability & Innovation	S4
Support efforts to identify and count quality, non-degree credentials that have lower-costs and support workforce needs	Goal 1: Credential Completion	M4
Support institutions as they explore cost-cutting measures necessitated by the economic implications of the COVID-19 crisis, identify innovations for institutional operations and education delivery needed under new resource constraints and ensure that all institutions keep their doors open to serve students and their community	Goal 4: Affordability & Innovation	S2, M2, M6

S=Short Term, M=Medium Term, L=Long Term