



Colorado Re-Engaged (CORE) Initiative

- Enables state four-year institutions of higher education, notwithstanding role and mission, to award associate degrees to eligible stop-out students.
- Funds a three-year full-time position to guide the work: Director of Student Transitions and Degree Completion Initiatives.
- The new position will also manage and identify ways to improve Reverse Transfer, adult reengagement, promotion of transfer credit opportunities, and manages a new college-going scholarship program ([SB21-106](#)) for early high school graduates.

Included in [HB21-1330](#) (23-1-131.5) “Higher Education Student Success”. Money to fund originates from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

Four-year Institution of Higher Education Associate Degree Details

- Is optional but highly encouraged for eligible institutions to participate.
- Student eligibility details:
 - **Must not have transferred directly from a CCCS** college to the four-year institution;
 - Not have enrolled at the four-year institution for at least **two consecutive terms** and up to ten academic years;
 - Have earned at least **70 credit hours**;
 - Did not earn a bachelor’s degree;
 - Credit hours to include completion of the institution’s general ed and associate degree requirements; and
 - Students eligible for Reverse Transfer are NOT eligible for this initiative.
- Designed as a completion award only; institutions cannot market to or enroll degree-seeking students into associate degree programs (unless they are a dual mission institution).
- CDHE estimates that, over the past three years, as many as 13,000 former students may be eligible.
- Institutions must receive governing board and accreditor approval to develop, offer, and award associate degrees.
- CDHE is charged with helping institutions promote and implement CORE.
- Financial resources will be made available to IHE’s to offset implementation costs.
- CDHE staff has met with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) executive leadership about resources for institutions and potential efficiencies in the substantive change process. CDHE will also coordinate with HLC to offer workshops

Additional Details

- Goal is to increase students’ earning potential by granting degrees to those who meet the requirements. Additionally, after being awarded the associate degree many students will re-enroll and complete the bachelor’s.
- Beginning August 1, 2022, and by August 1st each year after, participating institutions shall report to CDHE the number of eligible students that were awarded an associate degree through CORE as well as the number who re-enrolled after receiving a CORE associate degree.

For More Information

Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

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