



# Ad Hoc Task Force Committee Update

## Item IV, B – Discussion – March 6, 2026

Presented by Vice Chair Lisandra Gonzales and members of the CCHE  
Commission

### I. CCHE Strategic Plan: Building Skills for an Evolving Economy 2026-2027 Priorities [Final Draft]

*Last updated: March 4th, 2026*

**CCHE Strategic Plan Goal:** Increase the number of Coloradans benefiting from valuable career skills, obtained while in high school or via postsecondary education, that – at a minimum – enable additional lifetime earnings greater than the cost of attendance.

To advance this goal, the priorities below define our operational objectives and guide progress towards achieving our vision for all CO students. The below priorities support the Student’s Bill of Rights and align with the Governor’s Executive Order on postsecondary education.

In advancing these priorities, CCHE will fully exercise its existing authority through CCHE policy action. When necessary, it will assess whether statutory changes are necessary to remove barriers to progress and will make recommendations to the Legislature and Administration if needed. In light of the Governor’s EO, the Commission will also explore/recommend modifications to its authority as the EO transition committee explores a more tightly aligned postsecondary and workforce department, as well as subsequent supporting commissions. Additionally, CCHE will actively use its convening power, partnerships, data, and influence to advance its Strategic Plan and the Governor’s EO to ensure structures, policies and practice consistently serve the best interest of Colorado’s learners.

#### 2026-2027 Priorities

CCHE’s core functions and priorities, as determined by the CCHE Ad Hoc Committee, and agreed upon by the full Commission are listed below.

1. Academic Planning and Statewide Strategy  
Strategic Pillars: 1,2
  - a. Ensure a coordinated, statewide view of academic program development.





- b. Provide strategic leadership on CO's evolving workforce and key drivers of change, public perception and challenges facing higher ed, and articulate how these trends shape the future of postsecondary education.
- c. Promote coordination and collaboration between IHEs.
- d. Encourage systemwide planning and resource allocation that aligns with the goals of the strategic plan and the Governor's EO.

## **2. Finance, Funding, and Financial Aid**

### Strategic Pillar: 1

- a. We will maximize the impact of every state dollar invested in higher education by translating our strategic pillars into specific, data-driven benchmarks that track institutional results. Impact is defined as how effectively our investments in capital construction, IT, the funding formula, and financial aid bridge the gap between high-level policy and actual institutional performance. By focusing on this return on investment, we ensure that limited state funding directly drives the most important goals of the strategic plan.
- b. Improve transparency, accountability, and alignment of state resources.
- c. Discuss financial aid as a potential lever for ensuring student outcomes.

## **3. Transfer**

### Strategic Pillar: 2

- a. Continue to elevate and prioritize transfer as a policy priority to expand and streamline pathways to professional advancement, higher earnings and workforce opportunity through certificate, credential, and degree completion.
- b. Frame transfer policy within the broader Student Bill of Rights, ensuring seamless recognition and application learning across certificates, credentials, and degrees.
- c. Reinforce CCHE's role in promoting accountability, transparency, and student protections across postsecondary system.

## **4. Postsecondary Pathways Beyond IHEs**

### Strategic Pillar: 3

- a. Explore and determine CCHE's role in coordinating across non-IHE postsecondary pathways - intentionally helping to address alignment to workforce needs across the broader talent ecosystem.

## **5. Accountability and Data**

### Strategic Pillar: 2

- a. We will ensure meaningful accountability by focusing on data that drives change rather than redundant reporting. In this context, accountability is defined as the bridge





between information and action, where data insights directly inform institutional improvements and strategic adjustments. By streamlining our requirements, we can use clear performance metrics to trigger the necessary shifts in behavior and policy needed to advance the CCHE Strategic Plan.

- b. Prioritize data transparency tied to student success and the Student Bill of Rights.
- c. Increase expectations around monitoring and compliance of state dollars.

**Possible CCHE levers of enforcing authority:**

- Funding
- Financial Aid

**Links to Key Documents:**

- [CCHE Strategic Plan: Building Skills for an Evolving Economy](#)
- [CO Student Bill of Rights](#)
- [Executive Order](#)





**II. Action Plan (18 Months)**

**General**

Action Item	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review CDHE’s proposed policy revision schedule to ensure CCHE priorities and objectives are captured and addressed.</li> <li>Consider and finalize CCHE’s policy review process and determine committee/workgroup structure to ensure timely and thorough policy review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDHE will coordinate with chair to review presentation</li> <li>CDHE will present/discuss to CCHE for input on proposed policy review process at April meeting.</li> <li>CCHE will work with CDHE to finalize a process and policy review workplan/calendar by May meeting. All policies will be reviewed and edited by ___TBD___</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO Transition &amp; Helping develop “ideal” state structure and responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to CCHE ongoing/regular work of identifying immediate actions that advance student and workforce success, the Commission will now embed in all discussions the task of defining/capturing the roles, authorities, responsibilities and cautions that should be elevated to the EO transfer committee in our collective effort to design a future governance and accountability structure aligned to the outcomes outlined in the EO.</li> </ul>





**Priority Specific Actions**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Sub Committee</b>
<b>Academic Planning and Statewide Perspective</b>	In alignment with the TAC and EO findings, develop an updated Statement of Statewide Strategic Vision and associated internal procedures to tighten CCHE reviews, approvals and actions in service of such perspective. To inform this work, examine existing DHE, IHE and CCHE strategic plans, vision statements and G.O. actions to bring alignment to activities.	SSWA
<b>Finance, Funding, and Financial Aid</b>	Implement an Impact Framework to prioritize and audit all state funding allocations based on their direct contribution to CCHE performance metrics.	FPA
<b>Transfer</b>	Develop a vision and statement on the purpose of transfer policy through experience & perspective of learner. Informed by that, identify specific systems in need of change, end-state desired and mechanism of change.	Transfer
<b>Postsecondary Pathways Beyond IHEs</b>	Continue to explore and identify formal and informal levers to enhance and support an ecosystem that values the broad spectrum of post-secondary options creating alignment to workforce outcomes and accountability for earner/learner outcomes.	CCHE
<b>Accountability and Data</b>	Establish an Outcomes-Based Evaluation System to audit the effectiveness of current financial aid models and institutional structures using real-time impact data.	FPA

