



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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Oct. 23, 2009

News Release

Cost-Study Analysis Next Step In CAP4K Legislation

The Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education today announced the selection of Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc., a Denver-based education policy consulting firm, to conduct a cost assessment study of Senate Bill 08-212, also known as the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K).

The CAP4K legislation specifically calls for a study of the costs to be incurred by the department of education, department of higher education, local education providers and public institutions of higher education.

The study will address costs associated with implementing various aspects of the legislation, including elementary school readiness; postsecondary and workforce readiness; the redesign of the state assessment system; alignment of preschool, elementary, secondary and postsecondary curricula; diploma endorsements; incorporation of career and technical education standards into curricula; changes in postsecondary admissions policy; and changes in postsecondary teacher education programs.

"APA is pleased to be doing this work with the departments of education and higher education," said APA President John Augenblick.

“We look forward to helping the state understand costs associated with improving the alignment of a P20 education system in Colorado.”

APA will produce three reports on its findings. The first report is due by March 15, 2010, the second by Oct. 1, 2010 and third by Oct. 1, 2011.

For more information regarding the CAP4K cost study, please contact Samantha Long, at 303-866-3801 or long_s@cde.state.co.us

Overview of CAP4K

Signed into law in May 2008, S.B. 08-212, is an education reform initiative that creates for the first time in Colorado a fully aligned preschool to postsecondary education system. Additionally, the legislation requires a complete revision of standards for the 13 subject areas to be completed by Dec. 2009, with a revision of the state-administered assessments to be completed one year later.

The first component of CAP4K requires the departments of education and higher education to develop readiness standards or expectations for students entering kindergarten as well as postsecondary and/or the workforce. The second and third components of CAP4K implementation will be creating new assessments, accountability system alignment and specific state endorsements at high school graduation. The fourth component of the CAP4K legislation is focused on the alignment of the new standards with higher education requirements.

About APA

Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. is a Denver-based education policy consulting firm that has focused much of its attention on the cost of education programs and how state aid should be allocated to pay for such costs. Founded in 1983, APA's mission is to help solve their client's problems so they can meet student performance goals and improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of our nation's public schools.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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