

Colorado's Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act, SB08-212 (CAP4K)
Bill Summary
Colorado Department of Education

Purpose: Improve Colorado's public education through alignment of preschool through postsecondary expectations.

Step 1: Create descriptions for "school readiness," "21st century skills" and "postsecondary and workforce readiness".

- Shaping descriptions:
 - West Ed
 - National dialogue
 - Online Survey
 - Regional tour (13 Colorado cities in Nov. 08)
 - CDE and DHE 212 regional town hall meetings (12 Colorado cities from Nov. 08 through May 09)
- Deadlines:
 - 12.15.08 – State Board of Education adopts "school readiness" description
 - 12.15.09 – State Board of Education and Colorado Commission of Higher Education adopt "postsecondary and workforce readiness" description

Step 2: Expand and refine model content standards from preschool through high school.

- Assumptions:
 - Begin with the end in mind
 - Status quo not good enough (change is needed)
 - Aim is to create healthy tension
 - Design features = fewer, clearer, higher
 - The focus is standards, not curriculum
 - 21st century skills are essential
 - Competency based matters more than seat time
- 13 subjects, three phases:
 - Phase I – Reading & Writing, Math, Science, Financial Literacy and Music, January 10 – March 28
 - Phase II – History, Economics, Geography and Civics, March 28 – May 16
 - Phase III - World Language, Physical Education, Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts, June 20 – August 22
- Deadlines:
 - 12.15.09 – State Board of Education adopts revised preschool through postsecondary standards.

Step 3: Realign assessments with those standards.

- Postsecondary and workforce readiness assessment pilot:
 - Launch a high school assessment pilot in the spring of 2009 to inform the state about which tools signal student readiness for postsecondary success.
- Deadlines:
 - 12.15.10 – State Board of Education adopts revised assessment system.
 - 12.15.12 – Local education providers administer adopted postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation and readiness assessments

Step 4: Local school boards assure that local standards meet or exceed state standards.

- Deadlines:
 - 12.15.11 – Local school boards revise local standards and curricula to align with state standards.

Step 5: Recognize that earning a diploma based on demonstration of mastering the new standards means a student is college ready.

- Deadlines:
 - 7.1.11 – State Board of Education adopts high school diploma endorsement criteria.