



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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News Release

***Town Hall Meetings in Boulder and Lakewood Next Week
Launch Next Phase Of CAP4K And Assessment Revision
Effort***

The Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education will jointly host town hall meetings in Boulder on Wednesday, Jan. 20 and on Thursday, Jan. 21 in Lakewood, as part of the ongoing effort to redesign the state assessment system.

The meeting in Boulder will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the University Memorial Center, 1669 Euclid Ave., Room 235.

The meeting in Lakewood will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Red Rocks Community College, 13300 W. Sixth Ave., Community Room #0650, in the Lower Level, West Wing.

Educators, students, parents, business and community members and interested citizens are invited to the meeting.

The gathering in Boulder will be the first of 13 statewide meetings planned to solicit a broad spectrum of community thinking. The work was launched by Senate Bill 08-212, the "Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act," also known as the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K).

The town hall forums will be broken up into two sets. One set of meetings will focus on postsecondary and workforce readiness and secondary level assessments. All meetings will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Those meeting dates/locations are:

- Wednesday, Jan. 20 in Boulder
- Thursday, Jan. in Lakewood
- Tuesday, Feb. 16 in Grand Junction, location TBD
- Wednesday, Feb. 17 in Gunnison, location TBD
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 in Alamosa, location TBD
- Thursday, March 4 in Pueblo, location TBD
- Wednesday, March 31 in Greeley, location TBD

The second set of meetings will focus on school readiness and primary level assessments. They will also be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at these locations:

- Tuesday, Jan. 26 - Pikes Peak Community College, Rampart Range Campus, 11195 Highway 83, Rampart Range Room W101, Colorado Springs
- Thursday, Jan. 28 – Morgan Community College, 920 Barlow Road, Founders Room, Fort Morgan
- Thursday, Feb. 4 – Morgan Community College-Limon Center, 477 D. Ave., Limon
- Tuesday, Feb. 23 – Cortez, location TBD
- Wednesday, March 17 in Steamboat Springs, location TBD
- Wednesday, March 24 in Glenwood Springs, location TBD

A schedule of these meetings can be found on either department's Web site:
<http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/cap4k/cap4k.html>
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/ASMTRev/publictour.htm>

Earlier this year, in accordance with S.B. 08-212 (the Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act), the Colorado Departments of Education (CDE) and Higher Education (DHE) co-sponsored 13 regional town hall meetings around the state that focused on "postsecondary and workforce readiness," and the skills and competencies Colorado students need to succeed after high school.

This legislation, sometimes called the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids, or CAP4K, was enacted in 2008. In addition to creating a description of what it means to be postsecondary and workforce ready (PWR), it requires Colorado to revise and align 13 Model Content Standards. The PWR description was adopted in June 2009, and the standards were adopted on December 10, 2009. This year, the focus shifts to the next phase of the legislation, redesigning of our state assessment system.

Under CAP4K, Colorado is required to adopt a revised system of assessments that aligns with the updated state content standards. The revised system must include both school readiness and postsecondary and workforce readiness assessments; formative assessment; summative assessment; and the assessments for special populations (English Language Learners and students on an Individualized Education Plan).

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications, or John Karakoulakis, 303-866-4742, at the Department of Higher Education. 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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