



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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News Release

Town Hall Meetings in Grand Junction and Gunnison Next Week Continue 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 Grand Junction on Tuesday, Feb. 16 and Gunnison on Wednesday, Feb. 17, as part of the ongoing effort to redesign the state assessment system.

The meeting in Grand Junction will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Western Colorado Community College (a branch of Mesa State College), 2508 Blichmann Ave., Building B, Room 113 in Grand Junction.

The meeting in Gunnison will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Western State College, Aspinall Wilson Center, South Room, 909 E. Escalante Dr. in Gunnison.

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

The statewide meetings 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).

To accommodate in-depth conversation on each end of the system, the 2009 – 2010 tour is split into two parts: one devoted to school readiness and assessments for primary grades; and one devoted to postsecondary and workforce readiness and assessments for secondary grades.

The postsecondary and workforce readiness and secondary assessment meetings will take place from 5 to 7 p.m., the dates and locations are:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 16 in Grand Junction** at Western Colorado Community College (a branch of Mesa State College), 2508 Blichmann Ave., Building B, Room 113.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 17 in Gunnison** at Western State College, Aspinall Wilson Center, South Room, 909 E. Escalante Dr.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 24 at in Alamosa** at Adams State College, Student Union Building (#32), Room 309, 208 Edgemont Blvd.
- **Thursday, March 4 in Pueblo** at Pueblo Community College, Hoag Theatre—Academic Building, 900 West Orman Ave.
- **Wednesday, March 31 in Greeley** at UNC—University Center, Columbine A, 2045 10th Ave.

The other set of meetings will emphasize school readiness and primary (P-6) level assessments. They will also be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at these locations:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 23 in Cortez** at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Mesa Verde Room, 23390 Road K.
- **Wednesday, March 17 in Steamboat Springs** at Steamboat Springs Community Center, 1605 Lincoln Ave.
- **Wednesday, March 24 in Glenwood Springs** at Glenwood Springs Community Center, Red Mountain Road, 100 Wulfsohn Road.

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>

Senate Bill 212 was enacted in 2008. Last year the Colorado State Board of Education adopted descriptions of what it means to be both school ready and postsecondary and workforce ready. In addition, the new Colorado Academic Standards were adopted on December 10, 2009.

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; 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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