



**PWR Endorsement Diploma Workgroup  
Meeting Notes**

1560 Broadway, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor

Meeting Date: May 17, 2018

Meeting Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

No.	Discussion	Initiator
	<p><b>Facilitators: Andy Tucker, CDE, and Carl Einhaus, CDHE</b></p> <p><b>Attendees: Ron Marostica, Sterling, RE-1;</b> Elaine Menardi, Colorado AeroLab; Becky Sneller ,Wiggins; Tammy Ward, Community College System; Luis Sandoval, MSU Denver; Jef Fugita, Jeffco; Diana Zakhem, Englewood; Mimi Leonard, Littleton; Sheila Potorff, Poudre; Gabriel Castano, Johnson &amp; Wales; Brandon Protas, Community College of Denver; Wayne Artis, Pikes Peak Community College; Colleen Newman, University of Colorado/Boulder; Ron Marostica, RE Valley 1; Renise Walker, CDE &amp; CWDC; Robin Russel and Lulu Buck, CDE</p>	
	<p><b>Welcome and Recap from last meeting</b></p> <p><b>Guiding Legislation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Cap4K</a> – “Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment” included the first mention of the PWR Endorsed Diploma – an incentive and a stamp of readiness: C.R.S 22-7-1009 &amp; 22-7-1017</li> <li>• <a href="#">SB17-272</a> – “Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Indicator” and define “higher achievement” levels for Graduation Guidelines menu, so that districts can get extra points for accountability through the PWR Indicator</li> </ul> <p><b>Review:</b> Please reference <a href="#">notes</a> of this workgroup, Feb and Mar 8, and Apr 17, 2018. These notes include a discussion of the history of the endorsement, <a href="#">Graduation Guidelines</a>, the <a href="#">New Admission Policy (begins fall 2019)</a> from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, and a report and presentation on the High School Metrics of Postsecondary Readiness from Education Commission of the States (<a href="#">measures of PWR</a>). Predictors of Student Success, <a href="#">Colorado Admission Policy: mid 50% ranges</a>, <a href="#">Selection of Resident Freshman Merit Scholarships</a>, <a href="#">Developmental Education Policy</a> at CDHE, SB17-123: <a href="#">Diploma Endorsement for Biliteracy</a>, HB17-1201: The STEM Endorsement</p> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the compelling reason to offer this endorsement? And what does it mean for students?</li> <li>• Who is the audience?</li> <li>• What are indicators? If Graduation Guidelines is the minimum, what are other indicators that predict success and credential completion for students in careers, the military, and/or college?</li> <li>• Could the PWR Endorsement work with other legislated endorsements from 2017: SB17-123: <a href="#">Diploma Endorsement for Biliteracy</a>, HB17-1201: The STEM Endorsement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Andy Tucker,</b> Director, Office of Post- secondary Readiness, CDE</p>
	<p><b>Criteria for a PWR Endorsed Diploma</b></p> <p>The group considered possible criteria for the PWR endorsement, which included: Graduation Guidelines (GG) menu with higher achievement levels + new criteria that considered student pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a minimum of 100 documented hours in a work-based/experiential* learning experience *Work-based/experiential learning experiences include volunteer experiences, job shadows, Internships, externships, and/or apprenticeships that are aligned with the student’s ICAP</li> <li>• Complete a coherent pathway sequence of courses as determined at the district level, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher</li> <li>• Complete a Capstone that demonstrates your learning related to your pathway</li> </ul>	<p><b>Andy Tucker &amp; Carl Einhaus</b></p>

**Questions that the group considered:**

- Does either of these prototypes get us any closer to an endorsement that meets our interest demonstrating focus on a specific pathway?
- Which one and why?
- The prototype that includes assessment scores could also be viewed as a higher bar per HB17-272. Is there value in the PWR endorsement including these assessment scores along with the demonstration of pathway focus?
- Are these prototypes equitable? Could each student in each school district in the state access these measures?

**Group Discussion: comments and questions:**

- Really like the value add of pathways. District creates pathways, students choose.
- Easy to understand for all districts
- Tangible for higher ed. However, since the PWR Endorsed Diploma legislation says, “guarantee admission,” will higher achievement levels get there? Which schools?
- Would world language fit?
- GG is college and career ready. Why do we need higher scores?
- Does GPA need to be cumulative instead of pathways only?
- Change “100 hours” requirement to minimum plan in “competency training”?
- Include Capstone OR Industry Certification (for pathway demonstration)?
- Students will end up in the workforce. We need to wrap brain around life-long pathway.
- Want to move away from assessment exams for college.

**What is the value of a PWR Endorsed Diploma?**

**VALUE PROPOSITION statements from April 19:**

- PWR Endorsed Diploma emboldens students to pursue their full potential. The endorsement provides a “signal” to the student, parents, postsecondary institutions and employers that the student has demonstrated mastery of academic skills necessary for completion of a four-year degree and a mastery of technical and essential skills required for success in the workplace.
- Acquiring a PWR Endorsed Diploma guarantees that a student has demonstrated workforce readiness which may lead to a job upon graduation. Will also guarantee admission to several Colorado colleges and increases admission opportunities for the selective/highly selective colleges.

**Added Notes from May 17.** The PWR Diploma:

- Is recognition at the state level
- builds student confidence
- Is not just checking boxes
- Allows students to be intentional with their plan and pathways
- **Need to get rid of the guarantee.** “Nothing in life is really guaranteed”
- Will be a benefit for middle of the road students
- Separate from others: above and beyond
- We must add World Language to the measures. It is an imperative for college and career readiness
- See video - Flipping the College Decision Paradigm - <https://vimeo.com/174407736>
- Resolve parking lot issues.

**Biliteracy and STEM diplomas:** also not guarantees. Also recognize students who go above and beyond

## Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Endorsed Diploma

**DRAFT, May 17, 2018**

**Approved by workgroup for submission to CDE  
- after resolution of Parking Lot issues (see below)**

In order to be eligible for the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Endorsed Diploma, students demonstrate readiness for career and college through various measures.

Students meet or exceed district-determined graduation expectations, including a one semester course (minimum) of Civics;

**AND:** meet at least one of the following assessments for English AND for Math:

Measure	Proposed PWR Endorsed Diploma Criteria- English	Proposed PWR Endorsed Diploma Criteria- Math
Accuplacer	80 Reading <i>or</i> 95 Sentence Skills	85 Elementary Algebra
<b>ACT *</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>
ACT Work Keys	Silver	
AP	3	3
ASVAB	50 AFQT	
Concurrent Enrollment	Passing grade of C or higher in credit bearing college level course	Passing grade of C or higher in credit bearing college level course
<b>IB *</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
SAT	480	530

**AND:** Complete at least one year of world language

**AND:** Complete a minimum of 100 documented hours in a work-based/experiential\* learning experience

\*Work-based/experiential learning experiences include volunteer experiences, job shadows, internships, externships, and/or apprenticeships that are aligned with the student's ICAP

**AND:** complete a coherent pathway sequence of courses as determined at the district level, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher

**AND:** Complete a Capstone (or industry certificate) that demonstrates your learning related to your pathway

**Notes:** There is no guarantee of admission at UNC, CSU, CU/Boulder or Denver, Mines  
The PWR Endorsed Diploma includes "higher achievement" criteria - SB17-272

- \* Parking Lot:
- 1) ACT English cut score (18) is the same as ACT cut score for GG (18)
  - 2) IB cut scores are the same in English and math for GG (4)
  - 3) How do Math Pathways impact assessment cut scores?
  - 4) Do we include one year of world language?
