

## Concurrent Enrollment LEAN Process, December 2015

### Issues & Barriers Identified

The Colorado Departments of Education (CDE) and Higher Education (CDHE) in partnership with the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) convened stakeholders to conduct a LEAN process to provide suggestions to identify barriers and solutions to improve Concurrent Enrollment (CE) processes. This team of stakeholders from across Colorado met for 40 hours, which included front-line professionals from higher education institutions (registrar, admissions, advisors, etc.), K-12 district administrators, high schools decision makers, and counselors. Below are the suggestions from the LEAN process:

First, the group identified three systemic issues that exist and compound barriers within the Concurrent Enrollment program:

1. **Variation:** As a result of the lack of centralized, state-supported coordination, each individual school district and participating college are creating their own processes for concurrent enrollment, such as admitting, advising, registering, financing, scheduling, approving faculty to teach courses, placing students in courses, and determining which students are eligible for concurrent enrollment.

**Unintended Consequences:** Inconsistent processes statewide between school districts and colleges create inequities for students, specifically for students that identify as underrepresented minorities, eligible for free and reduced lunch, or in rural communities. It is estimated that this may be slowing closure of the attainment gap. As a result of inconsistent access and significant administrative burden, school districts are seeking to work with colleges outside their service areas.

2. **Equity/Access:** As a result of the broad variability in the implementation of concurrent enrollment, student access to participate in this program varies widely across Colorado. A related variable is student's access to high-quality advising and availability of instructors.

**Unintended Consequences:** Creates inequities for students in rural school districts, such as, excessive financial burden, students taking courses for which they are underprepared, do not transfer or do not count toward a degree.

3. **Inefficiency:** There is significant duplication of efforts occurring between and separately among higher ed and K-12 partners in the concurrent enrollment process, such as data management, data privacy requirements, and policies. Enrollment in CE involves multiple processes driven by varied stakeholder/policy requirements. Errors in coding, invoicing and billing Inefficient/time intensive registration, enrollment, invoicing, coding, and billing.

**Unintended Consequences:** This duplication of efforts is causing thousands of hours of time to be taken away from advising and other wrap-around student services to assist with successful course completion. Paper processes are a significant contributor to inefficiencies.