

Aligning

COLORADO SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PARTNERSHIP
Connecting Communities, Classrooms and Careers
with
PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATING COLORADO STUDENTS
An Education Planning Framework For Colorado Communities
Developed By The Colorado Education Goals Panel

HOW IS COLORADO PREPARING STUDENTS TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMANDS OF THE WORKFORCE?

As Coloradans consider what every student must know and be able to do, the changing needs of our society and the workplace are pulled to the forefront. Communities have identified the transition from school-to-career--whether a student goes directly into the workforce or continues on to college--as an area of particular concern. Students must be better prepared to meet the demands of a high-paced, high-skilled work world. To address this issue, the Colorado Education Goals Panel and the Colorado School-to-Career Partnership have been working together to ensure that students will be expected to achieve at higher levels today, so that they can build a stronger economy tomorrow.

COLORADO EDUCATION GOALS PANEL *Partnerships for Educating Colorado Students*

Co-chaired by the Governor and the Commissioner of Education, this 60 member planning group is comprised of citizens representing various constituencies from around the state. Seeing the need to shape statewide direction in education, the Goals Panel created the *Partnerships for Educating Colorado Students planning framework*. Structured around eight state education goals, this is a tool for districts and their communities to use as they plan and implement their school improvement efforts. Included throughout the Partnerships planning framework are the components of Colorado's School-to-Career Partnership.

COLORADO SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PARTNERSHIP *Connecting Classrooms, Communities and Careers*

This statewide effort assists local schools and communities in developing a K-16 learning system which promotes attainment of high academic standards, career development and workforce preparation for every student. Academic, career development and occupational education are integrated throughout classroom and worksite experiences, and align with academic content standards and assessment.

This synopsis highlights the connection between the work of the Goals Panel and the School-to-Career Partnership to revitalize and renew Colorado's education system.

GOAL 1

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CLEAR STANDARDS FOR WHAT STUDENTS MUST KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO

Business leaders in Colorado and across the country agree, high academic skills provide the foundation for a quality workforce. The relationship between academics and the workplace will help students see the relevancy of what they learn in school to the world of work. This relationship creates innovative methods for academic learning and preparation for higher education and employment.

GOAL 2

IMPLEMENT ASSESSMENT TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ARE MEETING HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Assessment will assist local communities and schools to determine if students are reaching high academic standards. Assessment practices, linking academic standards to the workplace, will be developed by local school-to-career partnerships. Students will then be able to show the achievement of an academic standard through a work-place demonstration. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to assess their general workplace and specific occupational competencies in actual business settings.

GOAL 3

ALIGN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION TO STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

Alignment will be supported through the integration of academic standards and assessment with the essential elements of School-to-Career, including:

School-Based Learning:

Integrating academics, career development and workforce preparation through curriculum and instruction.

Work-Based Learning:

Providing experiences for students in the community and in businesses that relate academic instruction to career interests and relevancy in the workplace.

Connecting Activities:

Providing a link between school and workplace experiences including career guidance and preparation for transition to postsecondary education and/or employment.

GOAL 4

PREPARE AND SUPPORT EDUCATORS TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO REACH HIGH STANDARDS

Professional development activities support educators in learning how to align academic content area information with career development and workplace skills. Preservice and inservice training will show how to weave school-to-career information into academic courses to create a comprehensive learning environment for all students.

GOAL 5

BEGIN EDUCATION EARLY TO ENSURE STUDENTS ARE READY TO LEARN WHEN THEY ENTER SCHOOL

Education provides the foundation for quality workers. To have a well trained and productive workforce, it is critical to ensure that all students are ready to learn as they enter school.

GOAL 6

CREATE SAFE, DISCIPLINED AND DRUG-FREE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Businesses, employers and community members will demonstrate how safe, disciplined and drug free environments are essential in school and for a productive and efficient workplace.

GOAL 7

PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS AND ESTABLISH LINKS AMONG THE EDUCATION (PRE K-16), PARENT AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

The framework of Colorado's School-to-Career efforts is Partnership. Together, business, community members, families, students and educators create a K-16 School-to-Career System. This integrated system supports students in reaching high academic standards and being prepared for high-wage, high-skill employment and post-secondary education. The benefits include a more qualified and skilled workforce and a relevant and exciting learning environment. Businesses are involved in providing work-based learning experiences and connecting with educators to develop integrated curriculum.

GOAL 8

SHARE RESPONSIBILITY AND BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS

The goal of the Colorado School-to-Career Partnership is to enable students to reach high academic standards and to prepare for higher education and the workforce. Each student should leave high school with an individual profile which details the student's academic accomplishments, career interests, abilities and experiences.



PARENTS AND FAMILIES

- Increase your child's awareness of career options
- Support your child in developing good work habits
- Promote school-to-career system development with school officials
- Help your child understand the relationship between learning and earning
- Get involved in creating school-to-career opportunities in your child's school
- Network with civic and business organizations to create interest and involvement



STUDENTS

- Aim high and make a commitment to a life of learning
- Ask employers how what you learn at school relates to work
- Know your abilities and interests and explore different careers
- Develop a career plan that matches your interests and abilities
- Select a college program that relates to your career goals and interests
- Tell your teachers and principal that you are interested in learning about careers



BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYERS

- Form a partnership with your local school system
- Encourage your employees to get involved in school-to-career
- Recruit other employers to support local school-to-career activities
- Provide experiences for students - job shadowing, internships & paid work
- Assist with curriculum development showing the relationship between school & work
- Invite educators into your business to demonstrate how academics apply to employment



EDUCATORS

- Promote policies that support school-to-career
- Relate work habits needed for school to those required on the job
- Align academic content standards and assessment with school-to-career
- Establish a comprehensive guidance program that includes career development
- Include business and industry visitation in your professional development plan
- Form partnerships with businesses for curriculum development & work-based learning
- Integrate your curriculum to teach academics, career development & preparation for work

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER RESOURCE CENTERS:

These regional resource centers represent 65 School-To-Career Partnerships across Colorado including 70% of school districts with the capacity to reach 90% of all students.

Region 1 – Northern Colorado

Connie Long

University of Northern Colorado
College of Continuing Education
Greeley, CO 80639
(970) 351-2944
Fax: (970) 351-2519
(Counties: Larimer, Weld, Morgan, Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Washington, Yuma, Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne)

Region 2 – Denver/Metro

Alice Potter

Public Education and Business Coalition
1410 Grant Street, Suite A-101
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 861-8661
Fax: (303) 861-1501
(Counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Jefferson, Denver, Douglas)

Region 3 – Central Colorado

Ed Bowen

Pikes Peak Community College
5675 South Academy Boulevard,
Box 38
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
(719) 540-7357
Fax: (719) 540-7059
(Counties: Park, Chaffee, Teller, El Paso, Fremont, Custer, Pueblo)

Region 4 – Southern Colorado

Julie Sumpter

Otero Junior College
1802 Colorado Avenue
La Junta, CO 81050
(719) 384-6835
Fax: (719) 384-6836
(Counties: Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Baca, Las Animas, Huerfano, Costilla, Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande, Mineral, Saguache)

Region 5 – Southwestern Colorado

Barbara Milicevic

Pueblo Community College
Southwest Center
60 South Cactus Drive, Suite 1
Cortez, CO 81321
(719) 565-7536
Fax: (719) 565-7499
(Counties: Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Dolores, San Juan, Hinsdale, Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta)

Region 6 – Western Colorado

Darla Bennett

STC Resource Center
504 27th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 947-0851
Fax: (970) 947-0862
(Counties: Moffat, Routt, Jackson, Grand, Summit, Eagle, Lake, Pitkin, Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco)



INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COLORADO SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PARTNERSHIP

Colorado Department of Education

Partnerships Office
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203
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Office of the Lt. Governor

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