

HB21-1330 Student Success & Workforce Revitalization Task Force

Workgroup Scope, Overview & Timeline

August 19, 2021



Legislative Scope *(Beginning on page 27 of the signed act)*

- *Examine ways in which to leverage best practices through data and technology to make informed decisions about interventions that drive student success; create multiple and linked pathways to postsecondary credentials, including the development of incremental credentials that a student may attain while working toward a baccalaureate degree; and ensure equitable access and benefit to students, including minimizing costs and time spent in attaining a credential or degree*
- *Examine strategies for increasing student retention and completion and to address the consequences students experience when they incur debt in attending an institution of higher education or local district college without completing a degree or other credential*
- *Develop effective strategies for leveraging federal higher education reforms, including the possibility of funding for two years of postsecondary enrollment for each student, to raise the completion rate for two-year and four-year degree programs*
- *Review possible uses of money transferred to the workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund pursuant to section 24-75-231 (2)(b)(i)(a) for programs, services, or other assistance for populations disproportionately impacted by the covid-public health emergency that address or mitigate the impacts of the public health emergency on educational disparities.*
- *Review the role of the state institutions of higher education, the local district colleges, the area technical colleges, and the state workforce development council in designing and promoting career pathways and other workforce development initiatives. The goal of the review is to determine how the roles of higher education and the state workforce development council may be thoughtfully integrated to reduce overlap and facilitate greater efficiencies and economies in providing workforce development and skills training for traditional and nontraditional students and to support and meet the needs of the workforce and the professional, industrial, and business sectors in Colorado.*
- *Review the role and mission and service area of each state institution of higher education, each local district college, and each area technical college, including all instruction offered by whatever means outside the geographic boundaries of a campus as described in section 23-1-109 (4) to determine whether the availability of and access to postsecondary credential programs is sufficient throughout the state without undue overlap and to ensure the most efficient use of resources*
- *Review the history, purpose, effect, and continuing benefit of service areas and the commission's policy concerning service areas and, based on the degree to which service areas improve and add value to the delivery of postsecondary education within the state and support the state's postsecondary access and attainment goals, recommend whether the service areas should continue and whether the service areas should be redrawn*

Student Success Working Group

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS:

- September 8, 2021 (Wednesday)
Noon – 2:00 PM
- September 21, 2021 (Tuesday)
1:00 – 3:00 PM
- October 21, 2021 (Thursday)
1:00 – 3:00 PM

Essential Questions for Working Group Consideration:

- What are the “current/new” realities impacting student/learner success in Colorado’s post-secondary ecosystem?
- What actions should Colorado and its postsecondary ecosystem take to rise to the challenges of our current/new realities?
- How does Colorado support and prepare all “learners” (nontraditional and post-traditional students) to be best positioned to maximize their economic potential and livelihood?
- Is student persistence and completion the most important determinant of student success? If not, what is? For any determinant, what are the best metrics and benchmarks to measure whether Colorado is “moving the needle” in meaningful way?
- How can Colorado effectively leverage publicly available benefits, philanthropy, and federal ARPA funding to support “success” for the most disproportionately impacted students/learners in the state?

Workforce Development & Revitalization

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS:

- September 14, 2021 (Tuesday)
1:00 – 3:00 PM
- September 22, 2021 (Wednesday)
1:00 – 3:00 PM
- October 25, 2021 (Monday)
1:00 – 2:30 PM

Essential Questions for Working Group Consideration:

- What are the most important gaps/barriers (perceived and real) in alignment between Colorado's postsecondary ecosystem and the upskill / reskill needs of Colorado's citizens?"
- How might Colorado use taxpayer resources most efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of Colorado's diverse "learners/talent" to upskill and reskill in preparation for success in today's evolving workplace?
- How can we better align post-secondary education workforce pathways?
- How can Colorado effectively leverage publicly available benefits, philanthropy, and federal ARPA funding for the most affected workers in the state?

Aligned Systems & Policies for Success

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS:

- October 28, 2021 (Thursday)
1:00 – 3:00 PM
- November 4, 2021 (Thursday)
1:00 – 3:00 PM
- November 9, 2021 (Tuesday)
1:00 – 2:30 PM

Essential Questions for Working Group Consideration:

- Through the lens of the initial findings and likely recommendations of the other two working groups, how can Colorado improve alignment of its resources, institutions, and policies in service to this vision for post secondary success and workforce training?
- How well do the focus areas (role and mission) and locations (service areas) of Colorado's higher education ecosystem as a whole meet the needs of Colorado's learners/talent?
 - Current and potential students (consumer demand)
 - Employers (market demand)
 - Taxpayers (resource efficiency)?
- What is the optimal balance of:
 - An open and competitive marketplace for academic programs; and a regulatory framework that protects public interests in resource efficiency and asset preservation?

Task Force and Work Group Approach & Alignment

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education was charged by Section 13 of the [legislation](#) with convening a task force to examine and consider how Colorado's postsecondary and workforce-related institutions, individually and in cooperation with one another and/or in coordination with other public and private efforts, may most effectively meet the needs of Colorado's postsecondary learners and talent workforce. Additionally, how might Colorado direct state and federal resources to better drive immediate, midterm, and long-term outcomes that help all Coloradans achieve success and unleash their economic potential.

To accomplish this, we will:

Utilize a Flipped Classroom Approach: Use time together in meetings to set direction and vision, discuss challenges or solutions as we work to find consensus AND use time out of meetings to read, review, learn, view presentations & develop thinking to come to meetings ready for action;

Be Efficient & Respectful of Time: Hold ourselves to a high standard as Task Force and Working Group members to come to meetings prepared, to actively listen to others, share our ideas succinctly and actively work to ensure all voices are heard; Task Force Meetings will be recorded and shared but the Working Group sessions will not be recorded.

Make Strategic Use of Structure: Stay focused on the purpose, charge and task(s) of the Task Force and of each Working Group which includes the Task Force leadership on the Vision and Approving Recommendations in collaborative support of the Working Group's charge of delving into specific questions or challenges and the collective commitment to build consensus and alignment;

Draw on Department & Member Expertise: Empower members of the Working Groups to share relevant materials and expertise with the group and work closely with DHE staff to bring institutional knowledge and perspective and to translate Working Group thinking into ideas to be discussed, refined and acted on by the Task Force. A detailed resources document will be shared following this meeting & should be reviewed in detail before the first working group meeting..

Think Boldly & Without Limits: We encourage members to re-examine existing practices, policies, and structures to determine if the legacy assumptions they are based on are still accurate and relevant for today and tomorrow's learners and workers.

Maintain Student Focus: Keep our learners, regardless of age and/or circumstance, at the heart of our work

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