



CO L O R A D O

**Colorado Commission on
Higher Education**

Department of Higher Education

CCHE AGENDA

July 30, 2021

**Colorado Department of Higher Education
ZOOM Video Conference
& CAVEA Theatre,
MSU, Auraria Campus**

**BUSINESS MEETING
12:30pm – 1:30pm**

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200 • Denver, Colorado 80202 • (303) 862.3001

DR. ANGIE PACCIONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Friday, July 30, 2021

Colorado Department of Higher Education

ZOOM Teleconference Only

Denver, Colorado

12:30 – 1:00pm

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Opening Business

- A. Attendance
- B. Approval of the Minutes for the June 3, 2021 Commission Meeting
- C. Reports
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Vice-Chair
 - iii. Commissioners
 - iv. Commission Standing Committees
 - v. Advisors
- D. Executive Director Report
- E. Public Comment

II. Consent Items

- A. Recommended Approval of Supplemental to Revise Cash Split for IT Project between Adams State, Fort Lewis College and Western State University – *Ashlee Pate*
- B. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy VI, Part B – *Emma Fedorchuk*
- C. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy VI, Part F – *Emma Fedorchuk*
- D. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation for Renewal of Provisional Authorization of Norwich University – *Heather DeLange*
- E. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation for the Renewal of Authorization for Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange*

III. Action Items

- A. Presentation of and Recommended Approval – HB21-1330 Task Force





**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
June 3, 2021**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Vanecia Kerr called the business meeting to order at 1:00pm.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Kerr, Vice Chair Hughes, Commissioners Abramson, Colon, Kostenbauer, McGimpsey, Meyer, Olena, Stich, Tucker.

Advisors attending: Wayne Artis, Brad Baca, David Olguin, Leah Porter.

B. Minutes

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve the May 7, 2021, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Chair, Vice-Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports

Chair Report – Chair Kerr reported that she has appreciated completing the term that previous Chair McGimpsey was not able to fulfill during this last six months due to his work promotion and increased responsibilities. She was pleased to move into this role and serve our state and the commission in this manner. She added that until Colorado reaches a point where more Coloradans are completing credentials, the Commission still has a lot of work to do. Chair Kerr encouraged the commission to move toward actions that can be taken within our authority to become influencers and move the needle in a big way. She expressed appreciation for the Advisors and the critical role they play in the work of the commission.

Vice Chair Report – Vice Chair Hughes also expressed gratitude and appreciation for commissioners and advisors as well as the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair. She reported that several IHEs have new leadership including Western and CU. Her work on the transportation bill will impact higher education in a positive way over the long term.



Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Stich reported that she will share a referral to a book that addresses the question of what other states’ institutions are doing to better connect education to work force and other outcomes.

Commissioner Kostenbauer reported that she met with the dean of Leeds College of Business at CU to get an update on the school’s performance. Its applications have increased over last year and the percentage of female applicants has risen as well. They have a first-year experience team that works with new students and to provide a lot of wraparound services.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that the committee met on May 28th. Highlights of the meeting include a discussion about the funding formula and improving language for Step 1 and Step 3 of the formula. The committee also discussed the final financial aid allocation. More information is needed, and the conversations will continue over the summer.

Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee – Commissioner Stich reported that the committee met on May 20th. Staff presented an overview on the funding formula. Staff also reported on proposed changes to admissions policy which is on the agenda for today’s meeting. The committee was briefed on HB20-1022 implementation. The first innovation policy proposal was also discussed.

Advisor Reports- No advisor reports.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione reported that this year’s long bill includes an amendment that allows the department to hire a Chief Educational Equity Officer. The Governor and OSPB have both approved it. The position was posted last week. Dr. Paccione thanked outgoing Deputy Director Inta Morris for 14 years of service at the department. Several IHEs have applied for the Hunger Free / Healthy Minds Campus designation. Additional work is moving forward in this area regarding SNAP benefits access by students. Progress is being made on a bill that will work to increase the number of students applying for FAFSA and CASFA aid. Open Educational Resources has received funds again this year and will work to address displaced workers, students with some college, no degree and the pay for success model.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Consent Items

- A. Degree Authorization Act – Recommendation for the Authorization Renewal of Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange*
- B. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part F - Admissions Standards Policy – *Carl Einhaus*
- C. Recommend Approval of Amended Two-Year Cash List for Colorado State University - Fort Collins – *Ashlee Pate*

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve Consent Items A through C. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abramson and passed unanimously.



III. Action Items

A. Final Financial Aid Allocation Approval - Colorado Student Grant and Work Study – *Emma Fedorchuk and Lauren Gilliland*

Ms. Emma Fedorchuk and Ms. Lauren Gilliland, CDHE, reviewed actions related to financial aid previously taken by Commission. The Commission had previously approved financial aid allocations for FY 2021-22 for the Colorado Graduate Grant and CTE Grant programs but deferred a final decision on the Colorado Student Grant and Work Study Program until the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee (FAA) could obtain additional information on performance and accountability measures at for-profit institutions receiving state financial aid funds. The recommendation of FAA at its May 28 meeting was to approve a scenario in which allocations for proprietary institutions were the same as the prior year. The Commission voted to approve the recommendation of FAA.

B. Approval of Appropriation Timeline Extension for Systems Biotechnology Building Academic Wing Project at University of Colorado at Boulder – *Lauren Gilliland*

Ms. Lauren Gilliland, CDHE, presented a supplemental request on the behalf of the University of Colorado - Boulder to extend their spending authority on the previously appropriated Systems Biotechnology Academic Wing project. Ms. Gilliland explained that the campus spent \$41 million of their \$43 million appropriation and were requesting a two-year extension for the remaining \$2 million for which the spending authority was set to expire on July 1st. Commissioners asked clarifying questions, then voted unanimously to approve the request and forward it to OSPB.

IV. Discussion Items

A. CCHE Policy Innovation Proposal - CCCS/CMC Pilot Program Awarding Financial Aid to Concurrent Enrollment Students – *Spencer Ellis and Lauren Gilliland*

Mr. Spencer Ellis and Ms. Lauren Gilliland presented the first CCHE policy innovation proposal submitted since the program was established earlier in 2020. The proposal was a jointly submitted by Colorado Mountain College and Colorado Community College System to allow awarding of need-based financial aid to high school students participating in the concurrent enrollment programs. Mr. Ellis reviewed the policy innovation process, indicating the next step would be exploring an MOU with the institutions. He then outlined the proposal noting its intent, two-year time frame, and reporting requirements. Ms. Gilliland discussed the financial details of the request including a recommended 3% cap by the institution of its undergraduate need-based aid allocation, noting no new money would be available. She also discussed the pros and cons of the request from the Department's perspective.



Commissioners discussed the proposal. Commissioner Tucker asked what supports concurrent enrollment students get from the community college or university they attend. Mr. Carl Einhaus, CDHE, stated that it depends on the MOU and whether the course is taught at the high school or the university. Mr. Matt Gianneschi, CMC, stated that current law requires high schools to pay for tuition for concurrent enrollment courses, and CMC waives all administrative and registration fees for these students. He notes that the intent of the proposal is to cover expenses for items such as books and materials. He added that students enrolling in concurrent enrollment courses receive the same student services as any other postsecondary student. Advisor Wayne Artis, Pikes Peak Community College, affirmed that this is also the case on his campus. Commissioner Stich commended the submitting institutions, and asked that there be a focus on measuring outcomes when any policy innovations are implemented through this program.

Commissioners directed the Department to move forward with exploring an MOU with CMC and CCCS to implement the policy innovation.

B. CCHE Use of Step 1 and 3 of the Funding Formula – *Jason Schrock*

Mr. Jason Schrock, CDHE, discussed the goal recommended by the institutions for the Commission to consider in making a funding recommendation in step 1 and/or 3 of the funding formula for the FY 2022-23 budget request. The recommended goal was reviewed by the Student Success and Academic Affairs and Fiscal Affairs committees. The language recommended by the institutions with the goal discusses levels of priority of funding—after sustaining current funding levels and funding core minimum cost increases through step 2 of the formula, additional investments in steps 1 and/or 3 should continue to focus on closing equity gaps as outlined in the Master Plan. The Commission voted to approve the language and the recommended policy goal.

C. Degree Authorization Act – Update – *Heather DeLange*

Ms. Heather DeLange, CDHE, provided an update on four currently authorized or previously authorized institutions under the Degree Authorization Act. The update included information on a proposed location change for Colorado Technical University, a merger of American Sentinel University with Post University, thereby resulting in the closure of the Colorado based American Sentinel University in Colorado, the closure of the additional location for Calvary University in Fort Morgan, and the accreditation action of ACCSC regarding the Center for Excellence in Higher Education family of schools, which includes the formerly authorized CollegeAmerica campuses.

Ms. DeLange will continue to monitor the actions and provide guidance to any student who is affected by the changes.



D. EDX Transcript Solutions – *Carl Einhaus with Kristi Wold-McCormick, University Registrar, and Reid Kallman, Associate Registrar, University of Colorado Boulder*

Mr. Einhaus introduced Ms. Wold-McCormick and Mr. Kallman who referenced a PowerPoint presentation included in the meeting booklet titled: “Electronic Data Exchange_CCHE_Final.” Both will provide updates on the project to the Commission as they become available.

V. Commission Initiatives

A. Legislative Update – *Dr. Ben Boggs*

In Chloe Figg’s absence, Dr. Ben Boggs, Chief of Staff, provided a brief legislative update. He noted that June 3 was Day 111 of 120 of this legislative session. The House has waived its rules to allow for bills to move more quickly through the chamber, and the pace has indeed picked up considerably. He added that Ms. Figg will provide a more comprehensive update via email next week. Dr. Boggs then highlighted three bills of particular note for Colorado postsecondary education:

- [HB21-1067: College Admission Use of National Test Scores](#) was signed into law by Governor Polis on May 25th. Sponsored by Representatives Kipp and Exum, and Senators Story and Buckner, the law stipulates that the governing board of a state institution of higher education may, but is not required to, require a national assessment test score as an eligibility criterion for admission.
- [HB21-1173: Prohibiting Legacy Preferences in Higher Education Institutions](#) was signed into law by Governor Polis on May 25th. Sponsored by Representatives Mullica and Gray, and Senators Pettersen and Bridges, the law prohibits a governing board of a state-supported higher education institution from considering legacy preferences and familial relationships to alumni of the institution in the admission process. The bill allows a governing board to ask questions regarding familial relationships to alumni of the institution in order to collect data.
- [HB21-1330: Higher Education Student Success](#) has been introduced in the House and was heard in House committee yesterday (Wednesday, June 2nd). Sponsored by Representatives McCluskie and Ricks, and Senators Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, the bill is the means by which state and federal stimulus funds for postsecondary education will be allocated.

In closing, Chair Kerr recognized and thanked those advisors and commissioners leaving the commission: Commissioner Colon, Commissioner McGimpsey, Advisor Wayne Artis, Advisor Leah Porter and Advisor David Olguin.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.



TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL TO REVISE CASH DIVIDE FOR IT PROJECT BETWEEN ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT LEWIS COLLEGE AND WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY

PREPARED BY: ASHLEE PATE, LEAD FINANCE ANALYST

I. SUMMARY

This consent item is to submit a supplemental to revise the cash divide for the Digital Transformation Initiative for Rural Higher Education project between Adams State University, Fort Lewis College, and Western Colorado University. Currently, the letter note divides the cash amount for the project at 1/3 for each institution. The institutions have agreed upon a different and preferred cash divide for the project. Commission approval is needed to proceed.

II. BACKGROUND

Under C.R.S. 23-1-106, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) must provide the legislative Capital Development Committee (CDC) with either approval or commentary on amendments to the two-year cash funded capital program lists submitted by public institutions of higher education. Capital construction projects or acquisition of real property less than or equal to two million dollars that are exclusively cash funded, and projects not for new construction less than or equal to 10 million dollars that are exclusively cash funded are exempted from this process. Governing boards have the authority to submit new two-year lists and amendments to the CCHE and CDC at any point during the fiscal year; however, projects on the two-year list may not commence until approved by the CDC. Any project expected to exceed the originally approved appropriation by fifteen percent or more must submit an amended two-year list item for approval.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

CIRA Commons Building:

Table 1 displays the requested difference of cash funds for the Digital Transformation Initiative for Rural Higher Education between Adams State University, Fort Lewis College, and Western Colorado University.

Table 1: Cash Revision, Digital Transformation Initiative for Rural Higher Education

Cash Revision		
Institution	Current Cash	Proposed Cash
Fort Lewis	\$30,974	\$32,661
Adams	\$30,973	\$30,530
Western	\$30,793	\$29,729

Project Description: Adams State University, Fort Lewis College and Western State University submitted a collaborative Capital IT request for FY21-22. The project is a Digital Transformation Initiative for Rural Higher Education to replace their legacy ERP/SIS with a newer cloud-based solution across all three institutions. The request was approved with a letter note that all three institutions divide the cash portion at one-third each. Since beginning the project the institutions have discovered that the amounts available to contribute vary slightly from the original letter note.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends approval of the supplemental to revise the cash division between Adams State University, Fort Lewis College, and Western Colorado University, and forwarding to the Capital Development Committee and the Office of State Planning and Budgeting.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-106(1) Except as permitted by subsection (9) of this section, it is declared to be the policy of the general assembly not to authorize any activity requiring capital construction or capital renewal for state institutions of higher education unless approved by the commission.

(5) (a) The commission shall approve plans for any capital construction or capital renewal project at any state institution of higher education regardless of the source of funds; except that the commission need not approve plans for any capital construction or capital renewal project at a local district college or area technical college or for any capital construction or capital renewal project described in subsection (9) of this section.

(b) The commission may except from the requirements for program and physical planning any project that requires two million dollars or less if the capital construction project is for new construction and funded solely from cash funds held by the institution or the project is funded through the higher education revenue bond intercept program established pursuant to section 23-5-139, or ten million dollars or less if the project is not for new construction and is funded solely from cash funds held by the institution.

(7)(c)(I)(B) The commission annually shall prepare a unified, two-year report for capital construction projects for new acquisitions of real property or for new construction, described in subsection (10) of this section, estimated to require total project expenditures exceeding two million dollars, coordinated with education plans. The commission shall transmit the report to the office of state planning and budgeting, the governor, the capital development committee, and the joint budget committee, consistent with the executive budget timetable.

(II)(A) The commission shall submit the two-year projections prepared by each state institution of higher education for each two-year period to the office of state planning and budgeting and the capital development committee. The capital development committee shall conduct a hearing in each regular legislative session on the projections and either approve the projections or return the projections to the state institution of higher education for modification. The commission and the

office of state planning and budgeting shall provide the capital development committee with comments concerning each projection.

(B) A state institution of higher education may submit to the staff of the capital development committee, the commission, and the office of state planning and budgeting an amendment to its approved two-year projection. The capital development committee shall conduct a hearing on the amendment within thirty days after submission during a regular legislative session of the general assembly or within forty-five days after submission during any period that the general assembly is not in regular legislative session. The capital development committee shall either approve the projections or return the projections to the state institution of higher education for modification. The commission and the office of state planning and budgeting shall provide the capital development committee with comments concerning each amendment.

(10)(b) For any project subject to subsection (9) of this section, the governing board may enhance the project in an amount not to exceed fifteen percent of the original estimate of the cost of the project without the approval of the commission, the office of state planning and budgeting, the capital development committee, or the joint budget committee so long as the governing board notifies the commission, the office of state planning and budgeting, the capital development committee, and the joint budget committee in writing, explaining how the project has been enhanced and the source of the moneys for the enhancement.

TOPIC: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CCHE POLICY VI PART B: IN-STATE TUITION CLASSIFICATION

PREPARED BY: EMMA FEDORCHUK, LEAD FINANCE ANALYST

I. SUMMARY

This consent item outlines proposed updates to CCHE Policy VI, Part B: In-State Tuition Classification to reflect existing statute related to the classification of students who attended a public or private Colorado high school for at least three years immediately preceding graduation or completion of a General Equivalency Diploma.

II. BACKGROUND

C.R.S. § 23-7-110 establishes an in-state tuition classification category for students who attend a public or private high school in Colorado for at least three years immediately preceding graduation from a Colorado high school or completion of a General Equivalency Diploma in Colorado. Students graduating after September 1, 2013, must enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of high school graduation/receipt of a GED to receive an in-state tuition classification. Students graduating prior to September 1, 2013, must be classified as in-state if they attended a Colorado high school for three years immediately preceding graduation and have resided in the state for at least 18 continuous months prior to postsecondary enrollment. Students seeking in-state tuition classification under this provision who do not currently have lawful presence must submit an affidavit to their institution stating that they have applied for lawful presence or will apply as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Existing statute is currently reflected in Department guidelines on in-state tuition classification but needs to be updated in CCHE policy.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

This change would bring CCHE policy in line with existing statute.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends approval of the proposed revisions to CCHE Policy VI, Part F: State-Funded Student Financial Aid Policies.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. § 23-7-110 Tuition classification of students who successfully complete high school or a high school equivalency examination in Colorado

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, a student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, must be classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes if:

- (a) The student attended a public or private high school in Colorado for at least three years immediately preceding the date the student either graduated from a Colorado high school or successfully completed a high school equivalency examination, as defined in section 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., in Colorado; and
- (b) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, within twelve months after graduating or successfully completing a high school equivalency examination, as defined in section 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., in Colorado, the student is admitted to a Colorado institution or attends an institution of higher education under a reciprocity agreement pursuant to section 23-1-112.
- (2)
- (a) In addition to satisfying the requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this section, a student seeking tuition classification as an in-state student pursuant to this section who does not have lawful immigration status must submit an affidavit to the institution to which the student is admitted, stating that the student has applied for lawful presence or will apply as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.
- (b) The institution shall not count a student described in subsection (2)(a) of this section as a resident for any purpose other than tuition classification; except that the student is eligible for the college opportunity fund program pursuant to the provisions of part 2 of article 18 of this title 23 and state student financial assistance pursuant to article 3.3 of this title 23, upon confirmation of the student's uniquely identifying student number provided by the local education provider where the student graduated from high school or successfully completed his or her high school equivalency examination, as defined in section 22-33-102 (8.5), and may be eligible for institutional or other private financial aid programs.
- (3) A student who satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section, who is subject to the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section, and who graduated or successfully completed his or her high school equivalency examination, as defined in section 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., prior to September 1, 2013, but was not admitted to an institution within twelve months after graduating or completing the high school equivalency examination, must be classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes so long as the student has been physically present in Colorado on a continuous basis for at least eighteen months prior to enrolling in the institution.
- (4) Any information provided to satisfy the criteria specified in this section shall be confidential unless disclosure is explicitly required by law. An institution that receives an affidavit described in subsection (2) of this section shall treat the affidavit as an education record of the student under the provisions of the federal "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974", 20 U.S.C. sec. 1232g.
- (5) This section provides an additional option for a student seeking classification as an in-state student for tuition purposes. This section shall not be interpreted to impose additional requirements upon a student seeking classification as an in-state student under any other section of this article.

ATTACHMENT(S): Attachment A: Revised Policy

SECTION VI

PART B IN-STATE TUITION CLASSIFICATION

1.00 Authority

Commission authority to establish tuition classification policies is given in 23-1-105(5), C.R.S.: The Commission, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions, shall establish policies for the public system of higher education for determining student residency status for tuition classification purposes within statutory guidelines in Article 7 of this title.

2.00 Institutions to Whom the Policy Applies

These policies shall apply to state-supported institutions of higher education, including, but not limited to, all postsecondary institutions supported in whole or part by state funds, and including junior colleges and community colleges, local district colleges, and area vocational schools. Those private and proprietary schools that have applied and been approved for participation in Colorado student financial aid programs shall use these policies to determine in-state tuition classification for purposes related to such student aid programs, except that military personnel who qualify under 1.10 shall not be considered in-state students for purposes of 23-3.3-101 et. seq. C.R.S. and 23-3.5-10.2 et. seq. C.R.S. until they meet the one year domicile requirement.

3.00 Current Legislation

The Colorado tuition classification law is contained in 23-7-101 to 107 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

4.1 General Policies

Institutions are to make information available to interested parties regarding the basic criteria and documentation considered by the institution in making tuition classification decisions. Such criteria and documentation should include, but are not necessarily limited to, information contained in these policies. All tuition classification decisions are the responsibility of each institution based on its staff assessment of pertinent data.

4.1 Registering Authority - the individual designated at each campus to have primary authority for making tuition classification decisions.

4.2 Timely - defined by each institution as the reasonable period of time, no more than 30 days, in which to produce clear and convincing evidence regarding the petition for in-state tuition classification.

4.3 Date of Registration - Shall be defined by the institution but shall not be later than the Approved Policy

first day of classes for which domiciliary classification is claimed.

- 4.4 Petition - the formal request by a student or prospective student to be considered a Colorado resident for purposes of in-state tuition classification. (Commission staff will provide a sample petition which institutions may choose to use).
- 4.5 Petitioner - the individual seeking to prove Colorado domicile for purposes of paying in-state tuition.
- 4.6 Member of the Armed Forces - An active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces, as specified by federal law, including U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or other such service.
- 4.7 Dependent of Member of the Armed Forces-the individuals recognized by the petitioner's branch of the U.S. Armed Forces as legal dependents.
- 4.8 Appeals to initial decisions of the Registering Authority

Each institution is to have in place a process whereby a decision of the registering authority may be appealed. Such process should include, at a minimum, an opportunity

for the petition and supporting documentation to be presented to a panel of institutional or governing board representatives for review and resolution. The decision of the institution's appeals panel will be final.

The petitioner is to be notified of the decision made by the appeals panel and any reasons why the petition was denied.

4.9 Emancipation of Minors

4.9.1 At the age of twenty-two, an unemancipated, unmarried student whose parents are not Colorado residents becomes emancipated and eligible to establish his own domicile. Thus, the 12 continuous months of residence, required as a part of domicile establishment, begins on the student's twenty-second birthday. Assuming the student has taken other legally required steps to establish permanent ties with Colorado, in-state status may be achieved on the twenty-third birthday.

4.9.2 A student under the age of twenty-two whose parents are not Colorado residents will automatically be emancipated upon legal marriage. In such cases, the date of the marriage is the date of emancipation and the date on which the 12-month residency period begins.

4.9.3 An unmarried individual under the age of twenty-two is considered to have residency of his parents unless the parents have emancipated the minor by surrendering the right and responsibility to support him. There is no specific amount defined as "support." In determining whether a minor has been emancipated, an institution must ascertain that parents have not only surrendered care, custody, and control, but have also not made provision for either substantial or regular support of the student.

4.9.4 Reversal of emancipation can occur if the emancipation was caused by circumstances other than marriage. Evidence that parents have resumed or provided for support of the minor would support a decision of reversal of emancipation.

4.9.5 If a minor is emancipated less than one year before his twenty-second birthday, the date of emancipation must be used to determine the point at which domicile was established.

4.10 Military Personnel

4.10.1 Upon action of the governing board to grant in-state tuition classification under the provisions of 23-7-103(1)(c)(II) as general policy, the institutional registering authority may determine active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their dependents, eligible for in-state tuition if the petitioner produces satisfactory documentation to show that he/she is moving to or residing in Colorado on a permanent change-of-station status as certified by the appropriate military official.

4.10.2 23-7-103(1)(c)(I) allows that a person who is a dependent of a military person on active duty shall not lose the dependent's in-state tuition status if the member is transferred outside of Colorado. To qualify to receive in-state tuition, the dependent of a military member who was on active duty in Colorado during the dependent's last year of high school must attend a public institution of higher education in Colorado within twelve months after graduating from a high school in Colorado. The dependent is not eligible for in-state tuition under the provision if the person has attended an institution of higher education outside of Colorado. If such dependent was continuously enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student after qualifying for in-state tuition, the dependent will not lose in-state tuition status if the member of the military is transferred outside of Colorado.

4.10.3 23-7-106 allows any member of the military forces of Canada stationed in Colorado, or the dependent of any such member, to receive in-state tuition status at any institution of higher education in Colorado. No member of the Canadian military shall be considered to be stationed in Colorado unless a full-time principal residence is maintained.

4.11 Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Aliens

All petitions submitted by petitioners who are not U.S. citizens can be classified in two categories:

- Immigrant alien
- Non-immigrant aliens

4.11.1 Immigrant Aliens

An individual who has received the Resident Alien Card (green card) is eligible to petition for in-state status under the same provisions as citizens. Similarly, a petitioner who has not yet received the Resident Alien Card, but has filed the Application for Adjustment of Status may petition for in-state tuition classification. For such cases, when the resident Alien Card has not yet been received, the date of the Application for Adjustment of Status should routinely be used as the date on which the petitioner was legally able to establish domicile in Colorado.

Using the date of the Application of Adjustment of Status recognizes the intent of the individual to establish a permanent home.

4.11.2 Non-Immigrant Aliens

Certain non-immigrant aliens may be legally incapable of establishing domicile. When making a tuition classification decision in response to a petition submitted by a non-immigrant, the following guidelines should be used to determine the student's ability to establish Colorado domicile.

Visa categories not capable of establishing Colorado domicile:

- F-1 Student in academic or language program.
- F-2 Spouse or child of student in academic or language program H-3 Trainee.
- M-1 Student in vocational or other recognized nonacademic institution.
- M-2 Spouse or child of student in vocational or other recognized nonacademic institution.

Visa categories not capable of establishing Colorado domicile if the visa holder is in Colorado primarily to learn:

- H-4 If the visa holder is a spouse or child of H-3 (as opposed to H-1 or H- 2).
- J-1 Exchange visitor.
- J-2 Spouse or child of exchange visitor.

All other visa categories are capable of establishing Colorado domicile.

4.12 Minor Whose Parents Have Left Colorado

An unemancipated minor remaining in Colorado when his Colorado-domiciled parents or guardians leave the state may be eligible for in-state tuition classification under the provisions of 23-7-103,(1)(m)(II), C.R.S. If so, such in-state status shall be maintained upon transfer from one Colorado postsecondary education institution to another as long as the student remains enrolled in courses leading to degree or certificate.

For purposes of the Colorado tuition classification law, a matriculated student shall have, at a minimum:

- X Applied and been accepted for admission to the institution (if applicable),
- X Registered for classes, and
- X Enrolled in registered classes (as defined in CCHE policy V-B-2.04).

4.13 Olympic Athletes

Legislation passed by the 1986 session of the Colorado General Assembly allows Olympic athletes to attend any state-supported institution of higher education at in-state tuition rates. They are not required to file a petition to obtain such status, but shall be required to complete such documents as the institution deems necessary to verify their status as an athlete in the Olympic training program.

4.14 Students Who Successfully Complete High School or a High School Equivalency Examination in Colorado

Per C.R.S. 23-7-110, a student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, automatically qualifies for in-state status for tuition purposes if the student attended a public or private high school in Colorado for at least three years immediately preceding the date that the student either graduated from a public or private Colorado high school or completes a General Equivalency Diploma and is admitted into a Colorado institution of higher education, or

attends an institution of higher education under a reciprocity agreement pursuant to section 23-1-112 C.R.S. within 12 months after graduating or completing a general equivalency diploma in Colorado.

A student other than a nonimmigrant alien who attended three years at a Colorado public or private high school and graduated or earned a General Equivalency Diploma prior to September 1, 2013 and was not admitted to a Colorado higher education institution within twelve months may also qualify for in-state tuition as long as the student has been physically present in Colorado for at least eighteen months prior to enrolling in the institution.

In both cases, students without legal immigration status who qualify for in-state tuition under this provision must provide an affidavit stating that they have either applied for lawful presence or will do so as soon as the student is able to do so.

HISTORY: CCHE Agenda Item II, B – September 6, 2007
CCHE Agenda Item II, B – July 30, 2021

TOPIC: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CCHE POLICY VI PART F: STATE FUNDED STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

PREPARED BY: EMMA FEDORCHUK, LEAD FINANCE ANALYST

I. SUMMARY

This consent item outlines proposed revisions to CCHE Policy VI, Part F: State-Funded Student Financial Aid Policies to align with federal policy by removing the current requirement in CCHE policy that students register for selective service in order to receive state funded financial aid.

II. BACKGROUND

On December 27, 2020, the *FAFSA Simplification Act* (Act) was enacted into law as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*. Among the changes included in the Act was the amending of Sec. 484 of the Higher Education Act to remove the requirement that male students register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for federal student aid. Per a Dear Colleague letter dated June 11, 2021 (Attachment B), the federal Department of Education has chosen to move forward with early implementation of this provision of the Act, such that failure to register for Selective Service will no longer impact a student's Title IV aid eligibility beginning with the 2021-22 award year. Beginning with the 2023-24 award year, the Department of Education plans to completely remove the Selective Service question from the FAFSA.

Current CCHE policy requires students to register for Selective Service (if applicable) to be considered an "eligible student" (CCHE Policy VI Part F, Section 5.00). This requirement is found in policy only; it is not a statutory requirement. Existing statute *does* require that students demonstrate they have registered with Selective Service to be admitted to a public institution of higher education; this proposed change would be separate from that requirement.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Institutions have indicated that the removal of the Selective Service question from the FAFSA for the 2023-24 cycle and beyond will create audit challenges should registration remain a CCHE policy requirement, as the FAFSA question is currently the primary source of verification that CCHE policy is being met. This policy change would resolve that concern and align CCHE policy more closely with federal policy.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends approval of the proposed revisions to CCHE Policy VI, Part F: State-Funded Student Financial Aid Policies.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-3.3-103 (1) The general assembly hereby authorizes the commission to establish a program of financial assistance, to be operated during any school sessions, including summer sessions for students attending institutions.

C.R.S. §23-3.3-501 The commission shall use a portion of any moneys remaining after meeting the requirements of parts 2 and 3 of this article to provide other programs of financial assistance based upon financial need, merit, talent, or other criteria established by the commission for students enrolled at institutions.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A: Revised Policy

Attachment B: Dear Colleague Letter on Early Implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's Removal of Selective Service and Drug Conviction Requirements for Title IV Eligibility

SECTION VI

PART F STATE-FUNDED STUDENT FINANCIAL AID POLICY

1.00 Introduction

This policy describes the goals, programs, student eligibility criteria for each program, and eligibility standards for institutions participating in Colorado’s primary state-funded student assistance programs:

- **Need-based** aid assists students who cannot otherwise afford to attend college. Colorado Student Grant Program and Colorado Graduate Grant Program (hereinafter “Critical Colorado Career Graduate Grant Program”) are designed for students with demonstrated need.
- **Merit-based** aid recognizes and recruits Colorado’s most outstanding students. "Merit-based assistance" is financial aid that an institution awards to a student based on the student's academic, artistic, athletic, or other special accomplishments. *Colorado Graduate Scholars is currently unfunded*
- **Work-based** aid allows students to earn funds to assist in attending eligible educational institutions. It is considered a form of “self-help” assistance, since the student is earning money to help meet educational costs. Employment may be in jobs at eligible Colorado educational institutions, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, or for-profit organizations. While the majority of funds are reserved for undergraduate students with documented financial need (minimum of 70 percent), a limited number of students who wish to work their way through college may benefit from the work-study program without documenting need.
- **CTE Certificate Tuition Assistance Program** aid provides tuition assistance for low-income students enrolled in short CTE certificates that are ineligible for Pell grants.

The state-funded entitlement programs (Native American Tuition Assistance Program, Dependents Tuition Assistance Program) are statutorily mandated.

2.00 Statutory Authority

Statutory authority for the Colorado Student Grant, Colorado Graduate Grant, Colorado Merit Aid, and Colorado Graduate Scholars programs is contained in 23- 3.3-501, C.R.S.

Scholarship and grant program – funding.

The Commission shall use a portion of any moneys remaining after meeting the requirements of parts 2 and 3 of this article to provide other programs of financial assistance based upon financial need, merit, talent, or other criteria established by the Commission for students enrolled at institutions.

Statutory authority for the Colorado Work-Study Program is contained in 23-3.3-401, C.R.S.

Work-study program established – requirements.

(1) The Commission shall use a portion of any moneys remaining after meeting the requirements of parts 2 and 3 of this article to provide a work-study program of employment of qualifying students in good standing with the institution in which they are enrolled in positions that are directly under the control of the institution in which the student is enrolled or in positions with non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, or for-profit organizations with which the institution may execute student employment contracts.

(2) Any in-state student who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution as an undergraduate may qualify for participation in the work-study program established pursuant to this section.

(3) Funds appropriated to the Commission may also be used by the Commission in conjunction with and to supplement funds for current job opportunities or to supplement or match funds made available through any other public or private program for financial assistance. A sum not to exceed thirty percent of the funds allocated by the Commission for the work-study program may be used to provide funding on a basis other than financial need. A sum of not less than seventy percent of such money shall be used for students demonstrating financial need.

Statutory authority for the Commission's allocation method and institutional use of need-based grant funds is contained in 23-3.3-102, C.R.S. **(2) The commission shall determine, by guideline, the institutions eligible for participation in the program and shall annually determine the amount allocated to each institution.**

(3) Each state institution shall administer a financial assistance program according to policies and procedures established by the governing board of the institution. Each private institution of higher education, as defined in section 23-18-102 (9), that participates in the program of financial assistance established pursuant to this section shall administer a financial assistance program according to policies and procedures established by the governing board of the institution. Each participating nonpublic institution that is not a private institution of higher education shall administer a financial assistance program according to policies and procedures established by the commission. Each institution shall fund its assistance program using state moneys allocated to the institution and institutional moneys.

Statutory authority for the Colorado CTE grant is contained in 23-3.3-1101, C.R.S. and is not subject to the flexibility as the state need based programs.

(1) The commission shall establish a tuition assistance program for students enrolled in Career and Technical Education certificate programs. The commission shall allocate moneys to community colleges, area vocational schools, Colorado Mesa University, and local district junior colleges to provide tuition assistance for students who meet the income eligibility requirements for the Pell grant but do not qualify for the Pell grant because the certificate program in which they are enrolled does not meet the minimum credit hour requirements. The department of higher education and the institutions that receive tuition assistance moneys pursuant to this section shall administer the program in accordance with policies and procedures that the commission establishes.

3.00 Goals, Principles and Terminology

3.01 Policy Goals for State-Supported Financial Aid

CCHE's Financial Aid Policy is designed to facilitate access for Colorado residents and provide academic incentives that promote greater access and academic achievement in college.

3.01.01 Need-Based Aid

The goal of need-based student financial aid is to provide financial resources to Colorado residents who otherwise would be unable to pursue postsecondary education.

3.01.02 Merit-Based Aid

The goal of Colorado's Merit Program is to recruit and retain undergraduate Colorado resident students at Colorado colleges and universities who demonstrate outstanding levels of academic achievement.

Eligibility for the Colorado Merit program is determined by governing boards and may include criteria such as GPA, credit hour accumulation, course of study, or other requirements.

The Colorado's Graduate Scholars Program is currently unfunded.

3.01.03 Work-Study Aid

The goal of Colorado's Work-Study Program is to allow Colorado undergraduate resident students to earn funds while enrolled in a Colorado institution of higher education.

3.01.04 CTE Certificate Tuition Assistance

The goal of Colorado's CTE Certificate Tuition Assistance program is to provide low-income students options to quickly enter the work-force.

3.02 Principles

The Financial Aid Policy is based on the following principles:

3.02.01 Financial aid policies and practices should maximize the amount of financial aid funds available for Colorado residents by using federal dollars as the initial funding base, and by taking into consideration federal tax credits.

3.02.02 Students have a responsibility to contribute toward their cost of education. Student responsibility may be demonstrated in several forms, such as a work-study job, outside employment, and/or earning merit-based scholarships.

3.02.03 State financial aid need-based dollars should be directed toward the students with the least ability to pay the cost of higher education.

- 3.02.04 The state and the institutions are co-responsible for ensuring student access to higher education. The state's role is to provide leadership – by defining the operating values, specifying the statewide goals, and allocating the funds. The institutions are responsible for creating policies and programs that meet the statewide policy goals by developing the procedures, administering the programs, and making the appropriate decisions to assist individual students in achieving their educational goals.
- 3.02.05 The College Opportunity Fund (COF) is a way of delivering funding to institutions as stated in C.R.S. 23-18-202 and the COF stipend is not classified as student financial aid for students enrolled at Colorado public institution of higher education. The COF stipend is not included in calculating a student's Cost of Attendance (budget) nor is it a resource to the student for financial aid purposes for students attending a public institution of higher education. College Opportunity Fund dollars are, however, classified as student financial aid for eligible student recipients enrolled at participating private, non-profit colleges and universities.

3.03 Terminology

Award Year begins July 1 and ends June 30. All funds appropriated for a particular fiscal year are awarded to students enrolled during the award year.

Colorado Resident Student is a student who is eligible for in-state tuition classification as defined in Title 23, Article 7, C.R.S. For financial aid purposes, the definition applies to public and non-public institutions.

Cost of Attendance is the estimated cost of attending the institution, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, personal expenses and transportation costs. Each year, CCHE establishes parameters for living expenses that are used to establish each institutional cost of attendance.

Dependent Student is one who does not qualify as a self-supporting or independent student status as defined by FAFSA criteria.

Eligible Institution is an educational institution operating in Colorado, which meets requirements, specified in 23-3.3-101, C.R.S., and can document that it has a governance structure and institutional capability to administer a student aid program. A change in ownership or control of an eligible proprietary institution terminates eligibility. The owners must submit a new application.

Eligible Program is a program of education or training which:

- Admits, as regular students, only persons having a certificate of graduation from a secondary school (high school graduates), the recognized equivalent of that certificate (GED), or persons beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in

the State of Colorado who have been shown to have the ability to benefit from the education or training offered;

- Leads to a certificate, associate, bachelor, professional, or higher degree; or
 - Is at least a two-year program which is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree; or
 - Is at least a one-year program leading to a certificate or a degree that prepares a student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; or
- Is, for a proprietary institution or a postsecondary vocational institution, a program that provides at least 600 clock hours, 16 semester or trimester hours, or 24 quarter hours of undergraduate instruction offered during a minimum of 15 weeks of instruction, leading to a certificate or degree which prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

Eligible Student is one who is enrolled in an eligible program as a "regular student." A "regular student" is defined as a student who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution for the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential offered by that institution.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the amount that the student's family is expected to contribute toward cost of attendance, usually based on the family's income and assets, as evaluated by the formula known as "Federal Needs Analysis Methodology" specified in federal law.

Financial Need is the difference between the student's budget and the student's and family's resources as evaluated by the formula known as "Federal Needs Analysis Methodology" specified in federal law.

First Professional Student is a student who is enrolled in the schools of professional veterinary medicine, law, dentistry or medicine (M.D. program only).

Full-time Graduate Student is a graduate student who is enrolled in at least nine semester or quarter hours per academic term.

Full-time Undergraduate Student is an undergraduate student who at minimum is enrolled for:

- Twelve semester or quarter hours per regular academic term; or
- Twenty-four clock hours per week.

Graduate student is a degree-seeking student who is in attendance at an institution of higher education and is enrolled in an academic program of instruction beyond the baccalaureate level. The term includes any portion of a program leading to either a degree beyond the baccalaureate degree, or a first-professional degree when at least

three years of study at the pre-baccalaureate degree level are required for entrance into a program leading to such a degree. A student admitted as a special/provisional graduate student is eligible for financial aid for one term only.

Half-time Graduate Student is a graduate student who enrolls in four to eight semester or quarter hours per academic term.

Half-time Undergraduate Student is an undergraduate student who enrolls in:

- Six to eleven semester or quarter hours per regular academic term; or
- Twelve to twenty-three clock hours per week.

Independent Student is a student who meets the requirements for self-supporting or independent student status as defined in federal regulations and policy (Title 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1087vv (2008)).

Professional Judgment within the State of Colorado aid programs is the authority delegated to the Colorado financial aid administrators to exercise judgment in special circumstances when a student has substantively met the state eligibility parameters but circumstances beyond the student's control make the student technically ineligible for state financial aid. The state relies on the financial aid administrator to make such decisions that are in the best academic interest of the student. Because professional discretion provides limited flexibility to be exercised only in special circumstances, the financial aid administrator is solely responsible for ruling on the exception and documenting the decision. Professional judgment may not be used to award state aid to non-resident students.

Recent Colorado high school graduate is a student who has graduated from a Colorado high school within two years of being admitted to/enrolled in any postsecondary institution. A recent graduate must be a Colorado resident.

State-funded student assistance refers to the state **student financial assistance** dollars appropriated to fund the following programs:

- Need-based Programs are the financial aid programs that use “expected family contribution” or income category as a necessary criterion in making the award, including:
 - Colorado Student Grant
 - Colorado Graduate Grant/Critical Career Graduate Grant
- Non-need-based Funds are those programs that may be awarded on criteria that do not include “expected family contribution” or income category as a necessary criterion, including:
 - Colorado Work-Study
 - Colorado Merit Aid

Colorado also approves special appropriations for certain groups of individuals (e.g., Tuition Assistance Programs for Dependents of Deceased or Permanently Disabled Members of the Colorado National Guard, Firefighters, Law-Enforcement Personnel or POW/ MIA, Native American Tuition Assistance Program, CTE Certificate Tuition Assistance Program). These funds are referred to as categorical programs and have special criteria typically tied to funding.

Undergraduate Student is a degree-seeking student (for the purpose of obtaining a postsecondary certificate, associate degree, or first baccalaureate degree) who is enrolled at an eligible institution. The following limits apply to certain enrollment situations:

- Undergraduate students admitted as special students, and students enrolled exclusively in basic skills courses, are eligible for one term.
- Students concurrently enrolled in high school are not eligible for any program of state-funded student assistance, including students enrolled under the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act.
- Students are considered as undergraduate students when they are enrolled in study abroad, continuing education, technology-delivered courses, or consortium courses if:
 - The student is admitted to a degree or certificate program at the home institution.
 - The credits are applicable toward the program as if the credits were earned in regular courses at the home institution and the student's transcript at the home institution shows the individual classes taken.
 - When the courses are offered by another institution, written agreements exist between the institutions describing the acceptance of the courses toward the program to which the student is admitted prior to that enrollment.

4.00 Institutional Eligibility

4.01 Eligible Institutions

Institutions eligible for undergraduate financial aid must meet the requirements specified in 23-3.3-101 C.R.S., and include the following:

- State-supported two- and four-year institutions;
- State local district colleges;
- State area vocational/technical schools;
- Non-public (not-for-profit and proprietary) colleges, universities, and vocational schools. For these institutions, eligibility is legally tied to ownership. A change in ownership or control of a non-public institution terminates eligibility. The current owners must submit a new application.

Institutions eligible for graduate financial aid must meet the requirements specified in 23-3.3-101 C.R.S., and include the following:

- State-supported institutions offering graduate programs;

- Non-public colleges and universities offering graduate programs which have applied and been approved for participation by the Commission.

4.02 Application Process

The Commission accepts requests from institutions that wish to participate in state-funded financial aid programs each fall for the following fiscal year. To apply, the legal representative of the institution must submit an application (CCHE, C-3) and attach evidence documenting that the institution meets requirements of C.R.S. 23-3.3-101(3), including:

- Operated two years in Colorado under the current ownership;
- Administered federal financial aid programs for the two years under the current ownership; and
- Participated in a federal audit of the financial aid operations and resolved any outstanding audit findings.

4.03 Maintenance of Eligibility

In order for an approved postsecondary education institution to maintain eligibility to administer state-funded student assistance programs to its students, the following minimum administrative standards must be met:

- Utilization of Colorado Student Aid funds consistent with policy;
- Timely and corrected submission of required reports to CDHE;
- Demonstration of compliance with policy guidelines set forth for administration of Colorado student aid funds;
- Performance of a financial audit every two years; and
- Resolution of audit concerns prior to the start of the following award year.

5.00 Student Eligibility

To be considered for a state-supported financial aid award, all students must meet the following requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or eligible non-citizen;
-
- Eligible non-citizens are defined as:
 - attended high school in Colorado for at least 3 years before graduating from a Colorado high school or before successfully completing a high school equivalency examination;
 - admitted to a qualifying institution of higher education within 12 months after high school graduation;
 - having submitted an affidavit stating that the student has applied for lawful presence or will apply as soon as he or she is eligible.
- Be in good standing and demonstrate academic progress according to the institution's published Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress for financial aid purposes;
- Undergraduate students are eligible for state financial aid until they graduate, but

not to exceed a maximum of 150% of the program's graduation requirements (credit hours), or the maximum defined by institutional policy, if more restrictive.

Exclusions

Students seeking professional degrees in theology are prohibited to receive state funded financial assistance. Professional degrees in theology as defined in 23-3.3- 101, C.R.S. as:

- devotional in nature or designed to induce religious faith; and
- offered by an institution as preparation for a career in the clergy;

5.01 Student Eligibility for Need-Based Financial Aid Programs

Colorado funds two state need-based financial aid grant programs, the Colorado Student Grant Program, and the Colorado Graduate Grant Program (“Critical Career Graduate Grant”), for Colorado residents.

5.01.01 Colorado Student Grant

Colorado Student Grants are awarded annually. To be eligible to receive a Colorado Student Grant, the student must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- Be an undergraduate student enrolled in an approved certificate or degree program;
 - Be a Colorado resident;
 - Be enrolled at least half-time (i.e., six credit hours per term);
- Show documented financial need through a valid Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid.

5.01.02 Colorado Graduate Grant (“Critical Career Graduate Grant”)

Critical Career Graduate Grants are awarded annually. To be eligible to receive a Critical Career Graduate Grant, the student must meet the need- based requirements in 5.01.03 and the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- Be a Colorado resident;
- Be enrolled at least half-time (i.e., four credit hours per term);
- Show documented financial need.

5.01.03 Eligibility Limits for Colorado Student Grant

Public and non-profit private institutions are granted financial aid flexibility and will award students in accordance with institutional policies.

Proprietary institutions award state funded financial aid in accordance guidelines set forth by the state. To ensure that state need-based dollars are directed to eligible Colorado resident students who have the least ability to pay for their education; CCHE policy defines funding levels for awards granted at

proprietary institutions. Using Expected Family Contribution, institutions will award need-based dollars to Pell eligible applicants. Other applicants will be considered only after meeting the need of Pell eligible applicants. Reasonable administrative practices, such as application deadlines, are recognized as realistic and appropriate. Institutions must fund Pell eligible students before consideration is given to any other students.

Pell Eligible: Students with the Least Ability to Pay

Students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) between zero and 100% of that required for a PELL grant. The minimum undergraduate award for this group of students is \$1,000 or the maximum amount of unmet need, whichever is less. The minimum grant is \$1,000 to allow the funds to be spread among more students, accommodating budget reductions at the state level. The maximum undergraduate award is \$5,000. Awards may be pro-rated for part-time enrollment.

Level 2: Students with Documented Need and Moderate Ability to Pay

Students with an EFC that is greater than 100% up to 200% of that required for the minimum Pell grant award. Maximum award for this category of students is \$2,500, or the maximum amount of unmet need, whichever is less. The grant can be pro-rated for part-time attendance.

Level 3: Students with Documented Need and Average Ability to Pay

All other students who demonstrate financial need as calculated by the federal methodology. Maximum award for this category of students is \$500.

5.01.04 Allocation Method

Undergraduate Need Based Aid (Colorado Student Grant)

The purposes of the Colorado Student Grant program are to provide need-based financial assistance to eligible Colorado residents as well as to encourage credit hour accumulation, persistence (including successful transfer), and timely completion. To accomplish these goals the Commission allocates state need-based dollars to institutions based upon their enrollments of eligible Colorado resident students who have the least ability to pay for their education; that is, Colorado Student Grant funds will be allocated to Pell eligible FTE at state-supported and non-profit private institutions, by class level (i.e., Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior). The Commission shall differentiate awards among class levels, providing increasingly larger awards for students who progress academically. In determined allocation amounts, the Commission will use the most current, reliable

data available.

The Commission allocates Colorado Student Grant funds to participating public and non-profit private institutions according to the following method:

- Freshmen students are those with 0-29 semester credit hours earned; Sophomores are those with 30-59 credit hours earned; Juniors are those with 60-89 credit hours earned; and Seniors are those with 90 or more credit hours earned.
- Student FTE enrolled in Title IV eligible programs at Area Vocational Schools will be counted as Freshmen students; all other institutions will be counted as reported.
- The Commission will annually establish a base rate for Freshmen students and incrementally larger awards based upon a student's class level. The Sophomore rate must be larger than the Freshmen (base) rate; the Junior rate must be larger than the Sophomore rate; the Senior rate must be larger than the Junior rate.
- The Commission will annually review the allocation method to ensure that changes to enrollment or funding levels are reasonable, predictable, and meet the objectives of this section.

Colorado Graduate Grant

The Commission allocates Colorado Graduate Grant funds to participating institutions following the established methodology:

- Participating State-supported four-year institutions, and approved private institutions will receive a flat payment from the state for each Pell Eligible-EFC student FTE enrolled in a critical career program.
- Payment based on the average of the actual COA-EFC at each eligible institution as reported in SURDS. Eligible private institutions will use the average of a comparable public institution.

5.02 Student Eligibility for Work-Based Financial Aid Program

In order to participate in the Colorado Work-Study Program, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be an undergraduate student in an approved certificate or degree program;
- Be a Colorado resident; Be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible program, except during vacation periods between consecutive terms of enrollment;
- Show documented need. This criterion applies to at least 70 percent of work-based funds. The institution has the discretion to use up to 30 percent of work-based funds to award to students without regard to need.

5.03 Professional Judgment

The state financial aid eligibility parameters are designed to apply to all financial aid recipients. This policy recognizes, however, that circumstances may exist in which the state financial aid parameters do not adequately address a particular student's situation. Financial aid administrators may exercise professional discretion on a case- by-case basis. The need for special treatment as well as the action taken must be adequately documented in the student's record.

Early Implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's Removal of Selective Service and Drug Conviction Requirements for Title IV Eligibility

PUBLICATION DATE: June 11, 2021

DCL ID: GEN-21-04

SUBJECT: Early Implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's Removal of Selective Service and Drug Conviction Requirements for Title IV Eligibility

SUMMARY: This letter provides information about the early implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's removal of Selective Service and drug conviction requirements for Title IV eligibility, as well as actions that institutions must take as these changes are implemented in phases across award years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. Certain other aspects of the law being implemented are discussed in separate communications.

Dear Colleague:

On December 27, 2020, the *FAFSA Simplification Act* (Act) was enacted into law as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*. The Act makes many important changes to the *Higher Education Act of 1965* (HEA) and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Two changes referred to by this DCL include amending Sec. 484 of the HEA to remove:

- The requirement that male students register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for federal student aid under Title IV of the HEA (Title IV); and
- Suspension of eligibility for Title IV aid for drug-related convictions that occurred while receiving Title IV aid.

Under the Act, the Department of Education (Department) may implement these changes by providing 60 days' notice in the Federal Register. The Secretary is issuing this notice in the coming days. Institutions may implement the changes as early as the date the Federal Register notice publishes. They must implement the changes no later than 60 days after the date of the Federal Register notice (implementation date). To make Title IV aid accessible to as many students as soon as possible, the Department of Education (Department) will implement these changes in three phases across three award years: the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 award years.

Other than statutory and regulatory requirements included in the document, the contents of this guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

2021-2022 Award Year

For the 2021-2022 award year, for which the FAFSA cycle has already begun, the Selective Service and drug conviction questions (as well as the option to register with the Selective Service via the FAFSA) will remain on the FAFSA. However, failing to register with the Selective Service or having a drug conviction while receiving federal Title IV aid will no longer impact a student's Title IV aid eligibility.

For the 2021-2022 award year, institutions will still see Comment Codes 30, 33, or 57 for Selective Service issues and Comment Codes 53, 54, 56, or 58 for drug convictions. Each Comment Code will still include messaging that a resolution is required to regain eligibility for federal student aid. For Institutional Student Information Reports (ISIRs) received on or after the implementation date, institutions must ignore the Comment Codes and the messaging requiring resolution and proceed to award and disburse aid to students if they are otherwise eligible. However, while recommended, institutions are not required to go back and reprocess, package, or award aid for ISIRs they received for the 2021-2022 award year prior to the implementation date unless requested by the student.

Federal Student Aid will be proactively sending emails to students who are associated with 2021-2022 ISIRs received prior to the implementation date and who were determined to be ineligible based on their answers to Selective Service and drug conviction questions informing them about the change in the law and their potential eligibility for Title IV aid. Emails will direct students to contact their institution's financial aid office.

2022-2023 Award Year

For the 2022-2023 award year, we will enhance implementation of the removal of Selective Service and drug conviction requirements for federal Title IV eligibility. Similar to the 2021-2022 award year:

- The Selective Service and drug conviction questions (as well as the option to register with the Selective Service via the FAFSA) will remain on the FAFSA;

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- Failing to register with the Selective Service or having a drug conviction while receiving federal Title IV aid will no longer affect a student's Title IV aid eligibility; and
- Institutions will still see Comment Codes 30, 33, or 57 for Selective Service issues and Comment Codes 53, 54, 56, or 58 for drug convictions, which institutions must ignore and may not use as a reason to deny Title IV aid to a student.

However, for the 2022-2023 award year, the Department will include language in the Comment Codes stating that no further action is necessary on the part of the student or the institution.

2023-2024 Award Year

For the 2023-2024 award year, the Department plans to completely remove both the Selective Service and drug conviction questions from the FAFSA, as well as the option to register with the Selective Service via the FAFSA. We will also remove any associated Comment Codes and messaging that indicate a resolution is required for federal Title IV eligibility.

Questions about our early implementation of these provisions of the FAFSA Simplification Act should be referred to our Contact Customer [Support](#) outreach site within FSA's Help Center, located in the new Knowledge Center. To submit a question, please enter your name, email address, topic, and question. When submitting a question related to this Dear Colleague Letter, please select the topic "FSA Ask-A-FED/Policy."

Thank you for your continued support of the Title IV federal student aid programs.

Sincerely,

Richard Cordray
Chief Operating Officer
Federal Student Aid

Annmarie Weisman
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Policy, Planning, and Innovation
Office of Postsecondary Education

Last Modified: 06/11/2021

KNOWLEDGE CENTER

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[FSA Handbook](#)
[Knowledge Center FAQs](#)

TRAINING

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[FSA Training Conference](#)
[Financial Aid Toolkit](#)

FINANCIAL AID DELIVERY

[Application & Verification](#)
[Calculating Awards & Packaging](#)
[Origination & Disbursement](#)
[Campus-Based Processing](#)
[Return of Title IV Funds](#)
[National Student Loan Data System \(NSLDS\)](#)
[Reconciliation & Closeout](#)
[Default Prevention & Management](#)

TITLE IV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

[Title IV Participation Application](#)
[Maintain Eligibility](#)
[Audit Submission](#)
[Appeals](#)
[Cybersecurity](#)
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TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: NORWICH UNIVERSITY –
REQUEST FOR THE RENEWAL OF PROVISIONAL
AUTHORIZATION

PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE, OFFICE OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION

I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends the renewal of Provisional Authorization for Norwich University to operate as an authorized private, degree-granting institution in Colorado pursuant to the Degree Authorization Act (§23-2-101 et seq.).

II. BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act articulates the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

The DAA establishes the Department's jurisdiction over private education programs available to the Colorado residents. The DAA establishes standards to (1) prevent misrepresentation, fraud, and collusion in offering educational programs to the public and (2) protect, preserve, foster, and encourage the educational programs offered by private educational institutions, which meet generally recognized criteria of quality and effectiveness as determined through voluntary accreditation.

Provisional authorization is the authorization level for institutions, new or new to Colorado, which have been evaluated by Department under Commission procedures and authorized by the Commission to enroll students, offer instruction, graduate students, and award degrees on condition that the institution is continuously seeking and making satisfactory progress toward accreditation at the local site. Institutions with provisional authorization are required to renew annually and must receive accreditation at the Colorado site within three years of initial authorization.

Norwich University is a not-for-profit institution of higher education located in Northfield, Vermont. Norwich has been regionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education since 1933 and initially sought authorization as a Place of Business to open an administrative office in Colorado with the intent to eventually seek full authorization and offer instruction from the local site. The Commission approved the Place of Business authorization in February 2019 and approved Provisional Authorization in April 2020.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Norwich University operates as a not-for-profit institution in Northfield, Vermont and offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate level programs. The pandemic of 2020 proved difficult to begin offering any instruction from the local site. However, Norwich University was able to establish some foundation to support anticipated operations in Denver. As a result of the pandemic, an effort was made to continue the development of online offerings and remote learning options which will enable Norwich to better support initiatives at the Denver facility, including the use of hybrid courses.

As required by the Degree Authorization Act, Norwich University submitted the appropriate documents for renewal. Upon review, staff recommends the renewal of Provisional Authorization for Norwich University until July 2022.

Pursuant to statute, institutions new to Colorado shall execute a bond or other surety instrument to provide indemnification to any student that the Commission finds to have suffered loss of tuition or any fees as a result of any act or practice that is a violation of statute. Norwich University officials have renewed the required bond.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends approval of the renewal of Provisional Authorization for Norwich University.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-2-103.3 Authorization to operate in Colorado – renewal

(1) (a) To operate in Colorado, a private college or university shall apply for and receive authorization from the commission. A private college or university shall obtain a separate authorization for each campus, branch, or site that is separately accredited. A private, nonprofit college or university shall submit with its application verification of nonprofit status, including a copy of the institution's tax-exempt certificate issued by the Colorado department of revenue.

(b) After receiving an application, the department shall review the application to determine whether the private college or university is institutionally accredited by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education. The department shall not recommend and the commission shall not approve an application from a private college or university that, in the two years preceding submission of the application, has had its accreditation suspended or withdrawn or has been prohibited from operating in another state or that has substantially the same owners, governing board, or principal officers as a private college or university that, in the two years preceding submission of the application, has had its accreditation suspended or withdrawn or has been prohibited from operating in another state.

(2) To operate in Colorado, a private college or university shall be institutionally accredited on the basis of an on-site review by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education; except that a private college or university may operate for an initial period without accreditation if the commission determines, in accordance with standards established by the commission, that the private college or university is likely to become accredited in a reasonable period of time or is making progress toward accreditation in accordance with the accrediting body's policies. The commission may grant a provisional authorization to a private college or university to operate for an initial period without accreditation. The private college or university shall annually renew its provisional authorization and report annually to the commission concerning the institution's progress in obtaining accreditation.

TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – RECOMMENDATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR RELIGIOUS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE, OFFICE OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends renewal of authorization for several institutions currently authorized as Religious Training Institutions/Seminaries under the Degree Authorization Act.

II. BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act articulates the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

Pursuant to statute and policy, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization that the institution holds from the CCHE. Seminaries and religious training institutions are required to apply for renewal of authorization every three years. To be considered for renewal of authorization, an institution must demonstrate that it continues to meet the minimum operating standards specified in statute and CCHE policy, Section I, Part J. Those minimum operating standards are demonstrated by the following documentation:

- An updated list of program offerings;
- Confirmation of non-profit status;
- Confirmation of tax-exempt status pursuant to Colorado State Law; and
- Updated contact information.

III Staff Analysis

Staff received the required documentation and based upon review of the institutions' materials for renewal, recommends the following seminaries or religious training institutions for renewal of authorization until 2024:

- Artios Christian College
- Augustine Institute
- Central American Theological Seminary
- Colorado Theological Seminary

- Gateway Seminary
- Holmes Institute
- International Reformed University & Seminary
- Front Range Bible Institute
- Master's International University of Divinity
- New Geneva Theological Seminary
- Rocky Mountain School of Ministry and Theology
- Sangre de Cristo Seminary and School for Biblical Studies
- William Tennent School of Theology

The materials submitted by each institution includes an updated list of program to ensure only religious programs are offered, a review of the institution's property tax exemption, a review of the institution's tax status, and renewal fee. Institutions that continue to meet the provisions of the Religious Training Institution/Seminary authorization are recommended for renewal.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval for the Religious Training Institutions/Seminaries listed above in Section III of this consent agenda item.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§23-2-103.3 C.R.S.

(II) A seminary or religious training institution that continues to meet the minimum operating standards specified in this section is presumed qualified for renewal of authorization, and the department shall recommend that the commission renew the institution's authorization for three additional years.

Agenda Item III, A
will be presented
at the meeting

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION - BYLAWS

Section 1. Organization and Meetings

- 1.1 **Organization:** Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-102, the Commission shall consist of eleven members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. The members of the Commission are selected on the basis of their knowledge of and interest in higher education and shall serve for four-year terms. No member of the Commission may serve more than two consecutive full four-year terms.
- 1.2 **Officers:** Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-110, the officers of the Commission shall be the Chair and Vice Chair. The Secretary shall be the Executive Director of the Commission and the Department and is a non-voting member of the Commission. The Governor appoints, with the consent of the Senate, the Executive Director to serve as the executive officer of the Commission and the Department.
- 1.3 All officers shall be elected at the May meeting of the Commission to serve a term of one year, except the Secretary whose term shall be coterminous with his or her term as Executive Director. Any member may nominate themselves or another member to be chair or vice-chair. Members will vote on each position; if there is more than one nomination the vote will be conducted by private ballot to be counted by the Secretary. Officers shall be limited to two consecutive terms, unless an exception is approved by a vote of more than 60 percent of the Commission. When possible, a Commissioner is encouraged to serve as vice-chair prior to becoming chair.
- 1.4 **Regular Meetings of the Commission:** The Commission shall adopt at the October Commission meeting a schedule of regular meetings of the Commission for the following calendar year.
- 1.3 **Notice of Meetings:** Any meetings at which the adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action occurs or at which a majority or quorum of the body is in attendance, or is expected to be in attendance, shall be held only after full and timely notice to the public. In addition to any other means selected by the Commission for giving notice to the public, the Commission shall post notice of its meetings at the office of the Colorado Department of Higher Education located at 1560 Broadway, Suite 1600, Denver, Colorado 80202 and on the Colorado Department of Higher Education website. Notices shall be posted no less than two days prior to the holding of the meeting. The posting shall include specific agenda information where possible.
- 1.4 **Special Meetings:** Special meetings of the Commission may be held at the call of the Chair on two days' notice, or at the request of five members of the Commission who may petition the Chair to call such a meeting. Notice of special meetings shall be made electronically or by telephone and posted at the office and on the website of the Colorado

Department of Higher Education no less than two days prior to the meeting date.

- 1.5 **Conduct of Meetings:** The Chair shall preside at all meetings at which he or she is present. In the Chair's absence, the Vice Chair shall preside, and in the event both are absent, those present shall elect a presiding officer. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with all State laws and regulations. The parliamentary rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, latest revision, shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable, except as modified herein.
- 1.6 **Attendance at Meetings:** The term of any member of the Commission who misses more than two consecutive regular Commission meetings without good cause, as determined by the Chair, shall be terminated and his successor appointed in the manner provided for appointments under C.R.S. §23-1-102.
- 1.7 **Preparation of Agenda:** Meeting agendas shall be prepared by the Executive Director of the Department. A monthly agenda call will be scheduled with the Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director, or his or her designee, to discuss and approve the proposed agenda. At a regular or special meeting, an item of business may be considered for addition to the agenda by a majority vote of the Commissioners present.
- 1.8 **Minutes of the Commission:** The Secretary shall maintain an accurate set of minutes of Commission meetings, which shall include a complete record of all actions taken by the Commission. Such minutes shall constitute a permanent record. After the minutes of each meeting are completed they shall be reviewed by the Commission and, after approval, posted on the CCHE website and made available to the public for inspection upon written request.
- 1.9 **Standing Committees:** The Commission may create standing or ad hoc committees comprised of Commissioners to research and make recommendations on specific issues for the full Commission to consider and act on.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

- 2.1 **Chair of the Commission:** The Chair of the Commission shall preside at meetings of the Commission at which he or she is in attendance.
- 2.2 **Vice Chair of the Commission:** The Vice Chair shall perform all duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.
- 2.3 **The Secretary/Executive Director of the Commission:** In addition to performing those duties established by law, the Executive Director of the Commission and Department shall: (a) serve as the Secretary of the Commission, (b) meet with the officers and staff of institutions of higher learning as the needs dictate for a mutual discussion of the matters affecting the responsibilities of the Commission, (c) meet with appropriate state and federal groups and/or officials on matters pertaining to the Commission, (d) meet with appropriate committees of the General Assembly on matters pertaining to the

Commission's responsibilities, (e) appoint such professional staff as in his or her judgment are required and are within the budget approved by the Commission and for which funds are available, (f) prepare an annual operating budget and work program for approval by the Commission, (g) implement the policies of the Commission and communicate those policies to interested parties as appropriate.

Section 3. The Advisory Committee

3.1 There is hereby established an advisory committee pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1- 103).

Advisory Committee Members: The advisory committee shall consist of not less than thirteen members, to be designated as follows:

(a) Six members shall be appointed from the General Assembly, including three senators, two of whom shall be from the majority party, appointed by the President of the Senate and one of who shall be from the minority party appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, and three representatives, two of whom shall be from the majority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one of who shall be from the minority party appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. Said six members shall be appointed for terms of two years or for the same terms to which they were elected to the general assembly, whichever is the lesser. Successors shall be appointed in the same manner as the original members;

(b) One member shall be selected and designated by the Commission, as recommended by the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council, to represent the faculty in the state;

(c) One member shall be selected and designated by the Commission, as recommended by the Student Affairs Council, to represent the students in the state for a term of one year, commencing on July 1 of the year appointed;

(d) One member shall be selected and designated by the Commission who is a parent of a student enrolled in a state supported institution of higher education in Colorado to represent the parents of students for a term of two years, commencing on July 1 of the year appointed.

(e) Not more than four additional members representing educational or other groups may be selected and designated by the Commission to serve on the advisory committee.

The Commission has designated the four additional advisory committee members to represent:

- Chief Academic Officers of Colorado's state supported institutions of higher education, as recommended by the Colorado Academic Council;
- Chief Financial Officers of Colorado's state supported institutions of higher education, as recommended by the, as recommended by the Chief Financial Officers group;

- Independent Higher Education Institutions in Colorado (Colorado College, Regis, and Denver University), as recommended by the Independent Higher Education Council; and,
- The K-12 system, as recommended by the Colorado Department of Education.

All such appointments shall be for a term of two years, commencing on July 1 of the year appointed.

- 3.2 Notice and Agendas: All members of the advisory committee shall receive agendas and background material and be notified of all public meetings of the Commission and shall be invited to attend for the purpose of suggesting solutions for the problems and needs of higher education and maintaining liaison with the general assembly.
- 3.3 Recommendations of the Advisory Committee: The members of the advisory committee shall have full opportunity to present their views on any matter before the Commission.

Section 4. Change in Bylaws

- 4.1 Bylaws shall be subject to amendment at any meeting of the Commission provided any such proposed change is listed on the agenda in accordance with the procedure outlined in Section 1.5 Notice of Meetings. Bylaw changes must be approved by a majority of the Commission.

HISTORY: Adopted on September 10, 1965. Amended January 14, 1966; February 25, 1972; June 1, 1978; July 1, 1993; October 7, 2004; May 6, 2011; CCHE Agenda March 3, 2017 Item V; April 5, 2019



COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

- Chair Vanecia Kerr (*D- 6th Congressional District*) 2nd term ends June 2022
- Vice Chair Sarah Kendall Hughes (*D-3rd Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2023
- Commissioner Paul Berrick Abramson (*U-7th Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2023
- Commissioner Aaron Harber (*D-2nd Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2025
- Commissioner Teresa Kostenbauer (*U-4th Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2024
- Commissioner Steven Meyer (*U-3rd Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2024
- Commissioner Brittany Stich (*D-1st Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2022
- Commissioner Steven Trujillo (*D-3rd Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2023
- Commissioner Eric Tucker (*U-5th Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2023
- Commissioner Jim Wilson (*R-5th Congressional District*) 1st term ends July 2025

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Legislative Advisors

- Representative Julie McCluskie, *House Majority Appointment*
- Representative Cathy Kipp, *House Majority Appointment*
- Representative Tonya Van Beber, *House Minority Appointment*
- Senator Rachel Zenzinger, *Senate Majority Appointment*
- Senator Tammy Story, *Senate Majority Appointment*
- Senator Kevin Priola, *Senate Minority Appointment*

Subject Matter Advisors

- Dr. Melinda Piket-May, *Faculty Representative*
- Mr. Mark Cavanaugh, *IHEC Representative*
- Mr. Brad Baca, *Institutional Finance Representative*
- Mr. Daniel Casillas, *Student Representative*
- Dr. Landon Pirius, *Academic Council Representative*
- Ms. Colleen O'Neil, *K-12 Representative*
- Ms. Donnis Hurd, *Parent Representative*





INSTITUTION AND SYSTEM LEADERS

<u>INSTITUTION</u>	<u>CEO</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Adams State University	Dr. Cheryl Lovell, President	Alamosa
Aims Community College	Dr. Leah Bornstein, President	Greeley
Community College System	Joe Garcia, Chancellor	Denver
Arapahoe CC	Dr. Stephanie Fujii, President	Littleton
Colorado Northwestern CC	Dr. Lisa Jones, President	Rangely
CC of Aurora	Mordechai Brownlee, President	Aurora
CC of Denver	Marielena DeSanctis, President	Denver
Front Range CC	Andy Dorsey, President	Westminster
Lamar CC	Dr. Linda Lujan, President	Lamar
Morgan CC	Dr. Curt Freed, President	Ft. Morgan
Northeastern JC	Jay Lee, President	Sterling
Otero JC	Dr. Timothy Alvarez, President	La Junta
Pikes Peak CC	Dr. Lance Bolton, President	Colorado Springs
Pueblo CC	Dr. Patty Erjavec, President	Pueblo
Red Rocks CC	Dr. Michele Haney, President	Lakewood
Trinidad State JC	Dr. Rhonda Epper, President	Trinidad
Colorado Mesa University	John Marshall, President	Grand Junction
Colorado Mountain College	Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, President	Glenwood Springs
Colorado School of Mines	Paul Johnson, President	Golden
Colorado State System	Dr. Tony Frank, Chancellor	Denver
CSU-Ft Collins	Dr. Joyce McConnell, President	Fort Collins
CSU-Pueblo	Dr. Timothy Mottet, President	Pueblo
CSU-Global Campus	Pamela Toney, President	Aurora
CU System	Todd Saliman, President	
CU – Boulder	Dr. Philip DiStefano, Chancellor	Denver
UCCS	Dr. Venkat Reddy, Chancellor	Boulder Colorado
UCD	Dr. Michelle Marks, Chancellor	Springs Denver
UC-Anschutz	Don Elliman, Chancellor	Aurora, Denver
Emily Griffith Technical College	Randy Johnson, Executive Director	Denver
Ft. Lewis College	Dr. Tom Stritikus, President	Durango
Metropolitan State University of Denver	Janine Davidson, President	Denver



Pickens Technical College	Dr. Teina McConnell, Executive	Aurora
Technical College of the Rockies	Allen Golden, Director	Delta
University of Northern Colorado	Dr. Andy Feinstein, President	Greeley
Western State Colorado University	Nancy Chisholm, President	Gunnison

Higher Education Glossary

529 Savings Plan - 529 plans are more than just savings accounts. These state-sponsored college savings plans were established by the federal government in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code to encourage families to save more for college. They offer unique state and federal tax benefits you can't get from other ways to save, making them one of the best ways to save for college.

Accuplacer - A suite of computer-adaptive placement tests that are used as assessment tools at institutions to evaluate the level of course work for a student. Students measured as needing additional course work will be assigned to remediation.

Admission Standard - includes both Freshman and Transfer standard. The freshman standard applies to all in-state and out-of-state new freshmen applicants and to transfer applicants with 12 or fewer college credit hours, except freshmen and transfer applicants who meet one of the admissions standards index exemptions. The transfer standard applies to all degree-seeking undergraduate transfer applicants with more than 12 college credit hours who do not meet one of the exemptions

Admission Window - Defined in Admission policy, "The maximum allowable percentage of admitted students who are not required to meet the CCHE admission standards within a specific fiscal year is referred to as the admissions window. Separate windows exist for the freshmen and transfer standards. The allowable percentage is determined by the Commission." The percentages vary by institution.

CAP4K - SB08-212, Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act; Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids.

CHEA - Council for Higher Education Accreditation. As described on their website, CHEA is "A national advocate and institutional voice for self-regulation of academic quality through accreditation, CHEA is an association of 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities and recognizes 60 institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations."

CIP - Classification of Instructional Program; The purpose of which is to provide a taxonomic scheme that will support the accurate tracking, assessment, and reporting of fields of study and program completions activity. (Relevant in Role & Mission)

CLEP - College Level Examination Program; Earn college credit for passing a subject specific examination.

COA - Cost of Attendance; in the context of financial aid, it is an estimate of what it will reasonably cost the student to attend a given institution for a given period of time.

Concurrent Enrollment – A high school student enrolled for one or more classes at a college or university in addition to high school courses.

Dually Enrolled - A student enrolled at two institutions at the same time. This may affect enrollment reports when both institutions count that student as enrolled.

EFC - Expected Family Contribution; in the context of financial aid, it is calculated by a federally-approved formula that accounts for income, assets, number of family members attending college, and other information.

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is a free service provided by the Federal government under the Department of Education and students are not charged to complete/file the FAFSA.

FAP – Financial Aid Plan (HESP specific)

FERPA - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, view federal website. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FFS – Fee-For-Service Contracts; A portion of the College Opportunity Fund program in addition to COF stipends, this contract provides funding to certain higher education institutions to supplement high cost programs and purchase additional services (such as graduate programs).

Floor - In reference to the admission window, the floor is the minimum requirements for admission without requiring an exception of some kind. This usually coincides with the Index score.

FTE - Full-time Equivalent; a way to measure a student's academic enrollment activity at an educational institution. An FTE of 1.0 means that the student is equivalent to full-time enrollment, or 30 credit hours per academic year for an undergraduate student.

GEARUP - Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs; A Federal discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Guaranteed Transfer, GT Pathways - gtPATHWAYS applies to all Colorado public institutions of higher education, and there are more than 900 lower-division general education courses in 20 subject areas approved for guaranteed transfer. Courses are approved at least twice per academic and calendar year and apply the next semester immediately following their approval.

HB 1023 - In most cases, refers to HB 06S-1023, which declares "It is the public policy of the state of Colorado that all persons eighteen years of age or older shall provide proof that they are lawfully present in the United States prior to receipt of certain public benefits."

HB 1024 - In most cases, refers to HB 06-1024, which declares "On or before September 1, 2006, each governing board of a state institution of higher education shall submit to the Colorado commission on higher education and the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, a report regarding underserved students".

HB 1057 - In most cases, refers to HB 05-1057, which declares "a college preparation program operating within the school district that the college preparation program shall provide to the Colorado commission on higher education, on or before December 31 of each school year, a report specifying each student, by unique identifying number."

HEAR - Higher Education Admission Requirements, 2008-2010.

Index, Index Score - This index score is a quantitative evaluation that is part of a larger student application evaluation. The score is generated from academic achievement (GPA or High School Rank) and college placement tests (ACT or SAT). You can calculate your index score online. Index varies by institution depending on that institutions selection criteria.

IPEDS - Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System; Run by NCES, this system collects statistical data and information on postsecondary institutions. The Colorado Department of Higher Education submits aggregated data on public institutions to IPEDS.

Need - In the context of student financial aid, Need is calculated by the difference between the COA (Cost of Attendance) and the EFC (Expected Family Contribution)

NCATE - National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education; NCATE is the profession's mechanism to help establish high quality teacher preparation.

NCLB - No Child Left Behind; The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) -- the main federal law affecting education from kindergarten through high school.

PSEO - Post Secondary Enrollment Option; A program that offers concurrent enrollment in college courses while in high school.

PWR - Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness; Definition was created during the SB08-212 CAP4K meetings.

QIS - Quality Indicator System; Implemented in HB96-1219, the specific quality indicators involved in QIS are similar to those used in the variety of quality indicator systems found in other states: graduation rates, freshmen retention and persistence rates, passing scores or rates on tests and licensure examinations, undergraduate class size, faculty teaching workload rates, and institutional support/administrative expenditures.

REP - Regional Education Provider; Colorado Statute authorizes Adams State College, Fort Lewis College, Mesa State College and Western State College to function as regional

educational providers and “have as their primary goal the assessment of regional educational needs...”
Regional education providers focus their attention on a certain geographical area.

SB 3 – In most cases refers to SB10-003, the Higher Education Flexibility Bill.

SB 212 - In most cases, refers to HB 08-212, the CAP4K legislation.

SBE - State Board of Education; As described on their website, "Members of the Colorado State Board of Education are charged by the Colorado Constitution with the general supervision of the public schools. They have numerous powers and duties specified in state law. Individuals are elected on a partisan basis to serve six-year terms without pay."

SFSF – State Fiscal Stabilization Fund; A component of the ARRA legislation and funding.

SURDS - Student Unit Record Data System

WICHE - Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education; A regional research and policy organization that assists students, policymakers, educators, and institutional, business and community leaders. WICHE states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

WUE - Western Undergraduate Exchange Program, managed by WICHE