

2022: Postsecondary Access & Success for Colorado's High School Grads

Following the HS Graduating Class of 2020



AKA: College-Going Info for Colorado's High School Grads

2020 high school grads were seniors when the pandemic began.

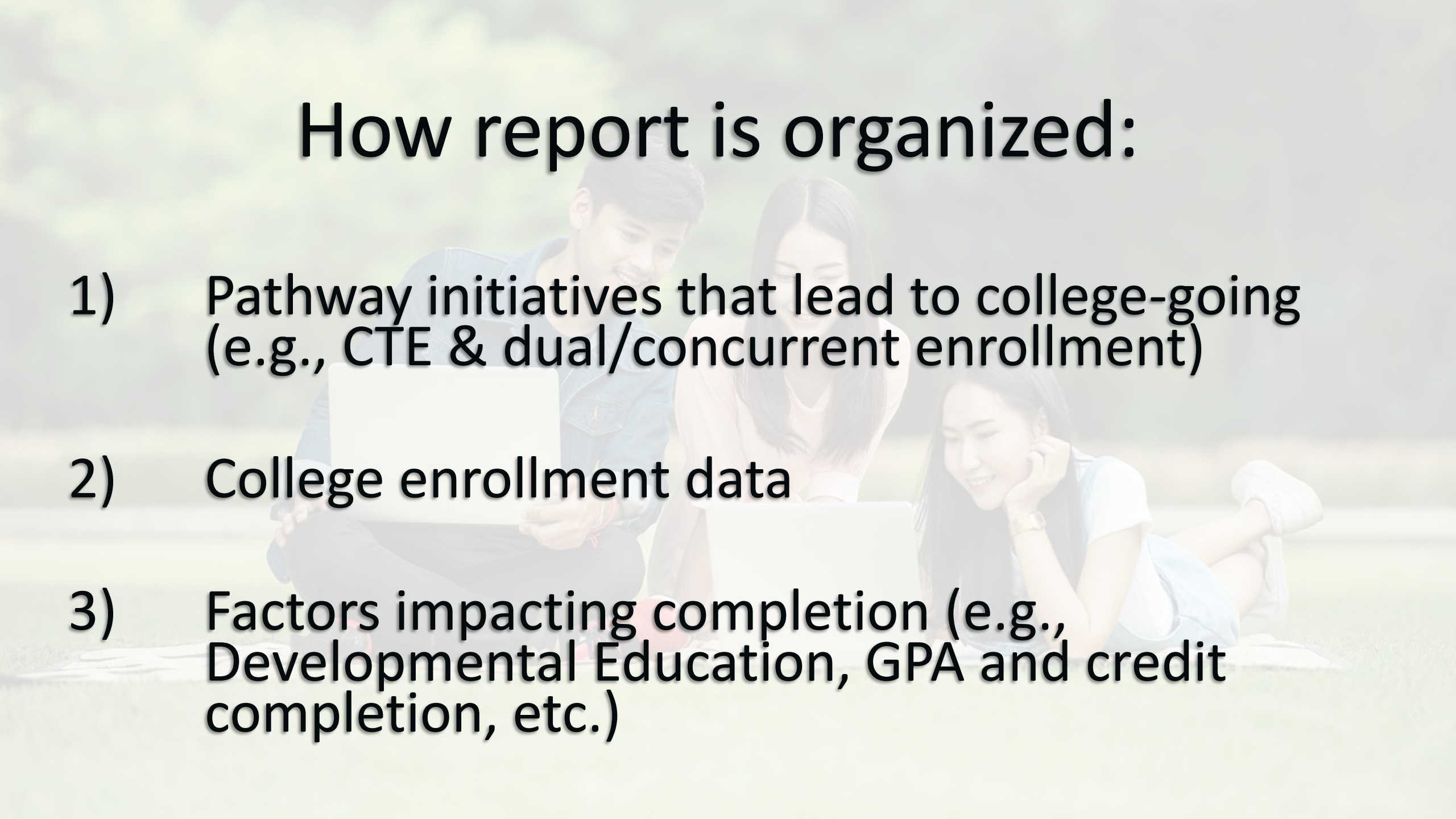
Purpose:

- Required by statute by April 15th each year: C.R.S. 23-1-113 (received permission to deliver in early May this year)
- Provide data on college-going trends for at least the preceding six years
- Information on gateway courses and developmental education
- First year college grades
- Disaggregated data by district & high school ([online](#) – “district at a glance”)
- Provide recommendations

Importance of Report:

- Provides critical information on status of reaching higher ed goals
- Highlight's areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, particularly surrounding equity
- Can help prioritize initiatives

How report is organized:

- 1) Pathway initiatives that lead to college-going (e.g., CTE & dual/concurrent enrollment)
 - 2) College enrollment data
 - 3) Factors impacting completion (e.g., Developmental Education, GPA and credit completion, etc.)
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- A background image showing three students (two women and one man) sitting on the grass outdoors, looking at a laptop. The man is on the left, one woman is in the middle, and another woman is on the right. They appear to be in a study session.

The Good

- Dual enrollment participation continues to increase;
- More students of color are participating in dual enrollment;
- Students are increasingly earning college credentials while in high school;
- There is a continued decrease in the need for developmental education courses at community colleges due to policy reform; and
- After multiple years of continued increases, first-year college GPA and course credits completed stayed at the same high level.

- Drop in college-going rates for all student groups – most significantly impacted were students from rural areas, and students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch Rate
- Anecdotal reports from Admission Council suggest that students who did not enroll immediately after HS graduation did NOT enroll after a gap year (as hoped) – must re-engage these students
- Supports for students of color and low-income students as measured by outcomes were greatly hindered by pandemic

Of Concern

Key Findings

- **50.5% enrolled** in a college/university the fall after HS graduation (over 5% decrease).
- **42% enrolled in college courses while in high school** (2% increase).
- **25% enrolled in an out-of-state institution** (about same).
- **First-year college GPA (2.9) and course credits (32.1)** about same after multiple years of increases.

Developmental Education Needs -A Mixed Bag

- 30% of enrolled students were either assessed as needing Dev Ed and/or enrolled in a Dev Ed course.
- Between 2017-2018, there was an almost 10% drop in need – attributed to dev ed reform!

While statewide the rate increased for students who assessed as needing and/or enrolled in dev ed course:

- two-year IHE's continued to decrease (35% need - 6% drop)
- Four-year IHEs continued to increase (28% need - 7% increase)

30%

Rural Student Data

- 45% students from rural areas enrolled in college fall after graduation – 6% decrease (50.5% state avg)
- In 2009, rural enrollment was 54.3% - has fluctuated slightly up and down since then
- “Small” rural area (less than 1000 students) = 43.2% - almost 10% decrease – group with largest impact from pandemic



Race & Ethnicity Data

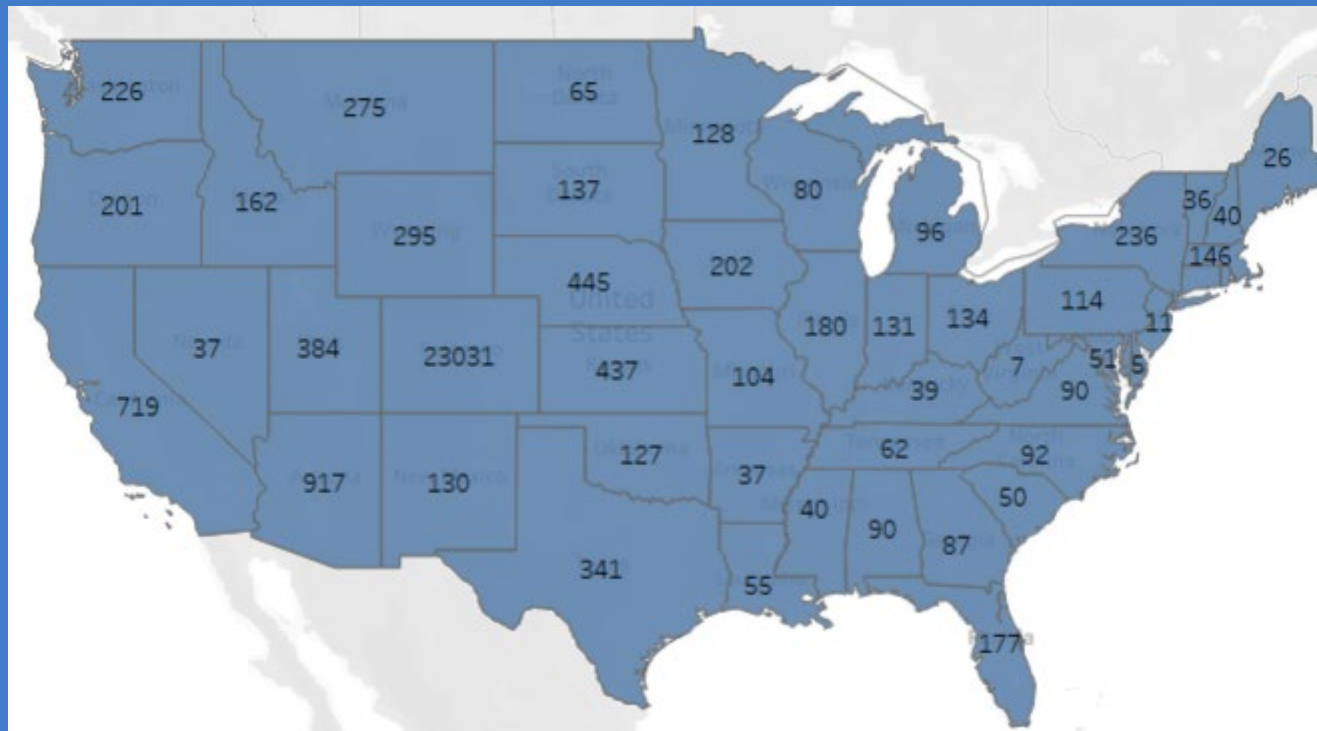
Equity gaps are especially evident by **credentials earned** by Coloradoans in 2020:

- 64.1 % Asian or Pacific Islander
- 59.1% White
- 30.9% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 37.9% Black or African American
- 25.1% Hispanic and/or Latino

(Data from Lumina Report on attainment rates.)

- College-going rates decreased for all groups – most impacted:
 - American Indian or Alaska Native (dropped 10% to 34.6%);
 - Asian (dropped 7% to 71.9%);
 - Two or More Races (dropped almost 7% to 52.3%)
- Dual enrollment is increasing for nearly every race/ethnicity group
- Credential earning in 4 years (2017 grads):
 - 39.2% overall
 - White students without dev ed need most likely to graduate in 4 years (48.1%)
 - Least likely to graduate in 4 years are students with dev ed need:
 - American Indian or Alaskan: 11.5%
 - Black (not Hispanic): 13.3%
- 22.4% of students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) and have Dev Ed needs graduate in 4 years (compared to 47% for students with no FRL and no Dev Ed need)

College Enrollment by State



24.9% of high school graduates attended an out-of-state college, a slight decrease from last year but the second-highest percentage in 11 years. The number of high school students is declining nationally, as a result, more out-of-state institutions are recruiting with greater intensity in Colorado. Only 19.5% of 2009 graduates attended out-of-state institutions. More must be done to keep our Colorado graduates in-state especially, as reported by the state demographer, migration to our state is slowing as are state birth rates and international student enrollment.

Policy Recommendations

- CDHE should work with institutions of higher education, K-12 partners, My Colorado Journey and the workforce to **encourage preparation**, enrollment and credential attainment of low-income, students of color and students from rural areas.
- Create **new incremental credentials** that recognize knowledge and skills developed along the degree pathway.
- CDHE, should work with college **academic advisors** to assist in training and designing student pathways, identify student pain points and solutions, and inform policy related to student success.
- CDHE must continue to work with institutions of higher education, CCHE, K-12 partners, and statewide leadership to **intentionally remove structural barriers**, providing students with the specific supports they need to succeed.

How the Commission can Help

- Assist CDHE in connecting with partner agencies in preparing K-12 students for higher education and careers.
- Help promote value of higher education to Coloradoans.

Thank You!

Carl Einhaus, Senior Director of Student Success & P20+ Alignment

May 6, 2022

