

Helping Colorado Learners Access Career-Connected Learning, College Coursework, & Industry Credentials in High School

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE '1215 TASK FORCE'

The Secondary, Postsecondary, and Work-Based Learning Integration Task Force was established through HB22-1215 to make recommendations for simplifying and expanding access to Colorado's complex ecosystem of programs designed to help students access career-connected learning, college coursework, and industry credentials in high school. The task force, made up of leaders from K-12, higher education, business, students, and non-profits engaged in career-connected learning, convened over the course of 18 months to understand programmatic data and make recommendations to increase access and equity across the state.

In December 2023, the task force released its recommendations, outlining four major issues must address to ensure all Colorado learners are set on a path to college and career success.

PROGRAM MODERNIZATION

- To streamline program administration, all postsecondary and workforce readiness programs under Colorado Department of Education's statutory authority should be housed under a new singular postsecondary and workforce readiness (PWR) umbrella.
- Create a single, streamlined PWR program reporting structure that results in one annual, comprehensive report.
- Establish and utilize a robust statewide longitudinal data system.
- Update the PWR measures in Colorado's accountability performance framework, including data elements (and ultimately, weights) to reflect the importance of learners graduating ready for jobs and additional training.

COLORADO
SUCCEEDS

▶ coloradosucceeds.org



ACCESS, AWARENESS & VALUE

- Develop a “single source of information” web-based platform for empowering Coloradans with data and guidance to find, finance, and flourish in personalized, lifelong career pathways.
- Develop and execute a comprehensive and complementary communications strategy to raise awareness and interest among Coloradans about personalized, lifelong career pathways.
- Invest in personalized career navigational support by prioritizing and professionalizing the function of career coaching in education and workforce development systems and in community settings.
- Carefully deploy a suite of tech-enabled advising and coaching tools to augment human capacity and focus attention on high-touch supports.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

- Ensure there is guaranteed, reliable, and consistent funding for PWR programs to fund attainment for learners who participate in PWR programs.
- Create an additional innovation fund to cover start-up and program costs for initiating a PWR program and to incent program expansion in more areas of the state.



PARTNERSHIP

- Define and invest in regional intermediaries to lead PWR partnerships.
- Continue to expand investment in Sector Partnerships as the foremost platform for employers in a sector to share their common workforce needs.
- Support employer engagement in high-quality work-based learning opportunities, while minimizing burdensome requirements.

Colorado Succeeds is committed to seeing this work through in partnership with members of the Task Force, the Colorado General Assembly, and other stakeholders.

Together, we will strengthen policy and practice and rethink the boundaries between high school, college, and career to continue improving outcomes for students

To learn more and get involved, please contact Sarah Swanson, Director of Policy, at sswanson@coloradosucceeds.org.