

# GOVERNOR RITTER'S COLORADO ACHIEVEMENT PLAN FOR KIDS (CAP4K)

In his second State of the State Address, Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. called for development of a comprehensive education reform strategy, one that would, for the first time in the State's history, align PK, K-12 and postsecondary educational systems around the belief that all students should receive an education that leads to postsecondary and career readiness.

Governor Ritter's approach would take several years to implement, but would likely have a modest fiscal impact.

## Elements of the proposal:

1. **ESTABLISH POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION AS THE DEFAULT PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**
  - a. What it is:
    - i. A requirement that all secondary level students are assumed to be postsecondary bound and educated accordingly.
    - ii. A requirement that all students receive a curriculum that is anchored in college- and career-ready Model Content Standards.
    - iii. An expectation that school districts will create multiple but equally rigorous pathways to college and career readiness.
  - b. What it is not:
    - i. A requirement for a certain number of years of seat time in math, science, or other content area.
  
2. **EXPAND COLORADO MODEL CONTENT STANDARDS TO GRADES PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE AND 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TO THE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE**
  - a. What it is:
    - i. A requirement that the State's colleges and universities describe exactly the content and skills required for success all 100-level English, mathematics, natural and physical science, social science, and arts and humanities, and foreign language courses.
    - ii. A requirement that CDE's Model Content Standards are developed for preschools, Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade.
    - iii. A requirement that CDE's State's Model Content Standards are aligned with the content and skills required for success in 100-level postsecondary courses.
  - b. What it is not:
    - i. A revision of generic and unspecific content standards and continued reliance on course titles as proxies for skills and knowledge.

3. **REQUIRE THAT ALL ASSESSMENTS ADMINISTERED IN GRADES 7-12 BE MODIFIED TO ALIGN WITH REVISED COLORADO MODEL CONTENT STANDARDS AND CAN BE USED FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION AND PLACEMENT PURPOSES.**
  - a. What it is:
    - i. The realignment of mandatory assessments to display information related to students specific postsecondary and career readiness.
    - ii. Adjusting CCHE admission and placement (remediation) policies to employ the results of mandatory standards-based assessments administered in the state's high schools.
  - b. What it is not:
    - i. A high school exit exam.
  
4. **AMEND CCHE ADMISSION AND REMEDIATION POLICIES TO PERMIT STUDENTS TO EARN QUALIFYING CREDIT BY PROFICIENCY RATHER THAN BY SEAT TIME OR COURSE TITLES ALONE.**
  - a. What it is:
    - i. A requirement that the CCHE's admission and placement policies are modified to accommodate the revised model content standards and statewide assessments.
    - ii. An opportunity to provide clear, explicit college preparatory standards beyond generic course titles.
  - b. What it is not:
    - i. The weakening of postsecondary preparatory expectations, readiness policies, or accountability policies.

**\*ANTICIPATED TIMELINE FOR INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION (NOTE: OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION MAY TAKE SEVERAL YEARS, E.G., 2008 – 2011:**

<b>January 2008:</b>	Early bill drafting (to include several parties, including DHE, CDE, and representatives from Preschool-3, K-12 and postsecondary education)
<b>Jan/Feb 2008:</b>	Solicitation of policy recommendations from P-20
<b>Late February 2008:</b>	Introduction of legislation
<b>July 2008:</b>	Begin implementation

**\*COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

**Fiscal impact:** Under evaluation (will depend on scope of final legislation)