



COLORADO

State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Academic Pre Collegiate Program</u>	Yes	Administered by the University of Colorado system to prepare middle and high school students to enter college	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students 	Yes	Funded by the 3 Colorado University campuses and the President's office.
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	At about 50% of high schools offer AP in 2001	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	State funding Eliminating Student Cost for Advanced Placement Exams (ESCAPE) Program to remove the barrier of test fees for low-income students and increase the number of low-income students taking AP exams.
Alternative Schools	Yes	Public schools set up in a non-traditional setting to draw students around the state with small classes, and, at times, self-paced curriculum.	Yes	At-risk students	Yes	State policy and funding in the form of financial aid to students
Bridge Programs	Yes	Summer program created to provide a college introduction to students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students 	No	
<u>Charter Schools</u>	Yes	Special emphasis on low-performing students with a desire to individualize education	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-risk students • Low-achieving students 	Yes	State policy and funding
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	Accepted by local colleges and universities	No		No	
<u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u>	Yes	K-12 cyber schools. The state also offers AP courses online through Colorado Online Learning.	Yes	Rural students	Yes	Federal funding with local control
<u>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</u>	Yes	Allows students to complete college course while in high school. It is also joined with online learning through the University of Denver and Otero Junior College	No		Yes	State funding

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
Early or Middle College High Schools	Yes	Two early college high schools: Dolores Huerta Preparatory High and Southwest Early College , and one middle college high school: Middle College of Denver	Yes	Latino(a) students attend Dolores Huerta Preparatory High	No	Operated as charter schools and funded similarly to other public instruction
GEAR UP	Yes	Prepares low-income students to enter higher education	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students 	Yes	Federal funding
GED in College Settings	Yes	GED courses are offered on college and high school campuses as well as in prisons. In some places these course are given in connection with ESL and Adult Literacy classes.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESL students • Incarcerated youth 	Yes	Federal funding through the Adult Literacy Act
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	29 high schools participating	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	State funding; 3-year grant IB exam fees for low-income students, beginning with 2004 exams
Magnet Schools	Yes	Operated by the school district with a special educational focus	No		Yes	State funding and legislation
Small Schools	Yes	Small school reform involves the breakup of large, urban schools into small, autonomous public and charter schools.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Urban students 	Yes	State funding
Tech Prep	Yes	CTE offered through partnerships between community colleges and secondary education	Yes	Special populations	Yes	Federal Perkins funding



Summary of academic pathways:

The Governor has stated that closing the achievement gap and increasing college access are top priorities. According to the GEAR UP program, only 39% of Colorado’s high school graduates proceed directly to institutions of higher education. As a result, the state is creating pre-collegiate partnerships. They are seeking an organizational structure that connects the high school to the college. The priority of the state is making students aware of college and the requirements for entrance. The Academic Pre-Collegiate Program administered by the University of Colorado system directly reaches underserved students and helps prepare them for the rigors of college-level work. Dual credit is seen as an important pathway because it allows high students to take college classes when in high school and help them prepare for the academic rigors of higher education while earning college credit. The state also implements several school reforms such as early and middle college high schools, small schools, charter schools, and alternative schools to provide students with alternatives to the traditional form of education.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Alternative Schools
- Distance Learning Network
- Pre-Collegiate Program
- School reforms: Small schools

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

While the traditional pathways do not make special efforts to reach underserved students, state-specific pathways do. The Distance Learning network seeks to connect rural students to the academic community. The small schools movement is directed toward urban areas, where youths and children of low-income families are served. Both the alternative and charter schools reach out to at-risk students, while the pre-collegiate program seeks to provide low-income students with the necessary preparation for college. Colorado is a diverse state with a large ESL population and is adopting programs to reach out to these students.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Much of the funding for these programs comes from the federal level. Decisions on its distribution are made at the local and not the state level. Both the magnet school and career academies are funded by the state. The University of Colorado system supports its own program.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- The state is becoming one of the most diverse and has a large ESL population.
- The state needs to raise awareness of collegiate opportunities starting in middle school.

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Middle College High School	Denver Middle College	Fred Thomas	--	(303) 964-300



COLORADO

State Profile

State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
*Gully Stanford	Director of Pre-Collegiate Partnerships	College In Colorado	gully.stanford@cic.state.co.us	720-264-8563

(Prepared by Christopher Evans/ Updated August, 2006 *State official reviewed this state profile.)