



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

Diana Sirko, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

Dear Educational Partners,

There have been a number of questions regarding the recently developed standards for Individual Career and Academic Plans. Our goal with this memo is to provide an update on the progress made and clarity on what to expect from the Department of Education in the upcoming months.

As many of you know, Senate Bill 09-256 and Colorado State Board of Education Rules 1 CCR 301-81 created standards for Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP). The goal of the provisions is to ultimately decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates by assisting students and their parents in developing and maintaining a personalized postsecondary plan that ensures readiness for postsecondary and workforce success.

Over the past year, educators have been working hard to meet the legislative and State Board Rules requirements for the ICAP. CDE has partnered with the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Colorado Community College System and with districts to achieve the following:

- Support districts in the creation and completion of ICAP Implementation Plans to ensure all students in grades 9 through 12 have access and assistance to personalized plans by the Fall of 2011;
- Provide ICAP trainings statewide on building ICAP systems with available resources ;
- Align ICAP to the newly revised Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness assessment attributes adopted by the Colorado State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission of Higher Education.

As we move into the implementation phase, the Department would like to make you all aware of the critical steps ahead of us:

1. Provide more resources and tools that clearly connect the ICAP standards to the PWR assessment attributes;
2. Develop and maintain an online resource bank with examples and best practices from districts statewide;
3. Gather questions and publish a comprehensive FAQ document for students, parents and partners;
4. Strengthen currently available ICAP online websites; and
5. Communicate key updates and events to districts.

Please continue to check the CDE Secondary Services and Initiatives website for regular updates on these next steps. The CDE Scoop newsletter is another method of communication that the Department will be using to provide updates. If you have not yet signed up to receive the Scoop newsletter, please do so here:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>. For more information, please contact Charles E. Dukes at Dukes_c@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6142.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diana Sirko
Deputy Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education

