

**Colorado's Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act, SB08-212 (CAP4K)**  
**Bill Summary**  
**Colorado Department of Education**

**Purpose:** Improve Colorado's public education through alignment of preschool through postsecondary expectations.

**Step 1:** Create descriptions for "school readiness," "21st century skills" and "postsecondary and workforce readiness".

- Shaping descriptions:
  - West Ed
  - National dialogue
  - Online Survey
  - Regional tour (13 Colorado cities in Nov. 08)
  - CDE and DHE 212 regional town hall meetings (12 Colorado cities from Nov. 08 through May 09)
- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.08 – State Board of Education adopts "school readiness" description
  - 12.15.09 – State Board of Education and Colorado Commission of Higher Education adopt "postsecondary and workforce readiness" description

**Step 2:** Expand and refine model content standards from preschool through high school.

- Assumptions:
  - Begin with the end in mind
  - Status quo not good enough (change is needed)
  - Aim is to create healthy tension
  - Design features = fewer, clearer, higher
  - The focus is standards, not curriculum
  - 21st century skills are essential
  - Competency based matters more than seat time
- 13 subjects, three phases:
  - Phase I – Reading & Writing, Math, Science, Financial Literacy and Music, January 10 – March 28
  - Phase II – History, Economics, Geography and Civics, March 28 – May 16
  - Phase III - World Language, Physical Education, Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts, June 20 – August 22
- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.09 – State Board of Education adopts revised preschool through postsecondary standards.

**Step 3:** Realign assessments with those standards.

- Postsecondary and workforce readiness assessment pilot:
  - Launch a high school assessment pilot in the spring of 2009 to inform the state about which tools signal student readiness for postsecondary success.
- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.10 – State Board of Education adopts revised assessment system.
  - 12.15.12 – Local education providers administer adopted postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation and readiness assessments

**Step 4:** Local school boards assure that local standards meet or exceed state standards.

- Deadlines:
  - 12.15.11 – Local school boards revise local standards and curricula to align with state standards.

**Step 5:** Recognize that earning a diploma based on demonstration of mastering the new standards means a student is college ready.

- Deadlines:
  - 7.1.11 – State Board of Education adopts high school diploma endorsement criteria.