

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our children are the future, and their education is the most important factor – after family upbringing – in setting the right course for their future and for society. As a father, I know the great pleasures and challenges of raising children, particularly during the teen years. We all want to see our children succeed, and one of the best ways we can help them is with advice about life after high school and the tie-in between education and success.

Someone with a college degree typically enjoys \$1 million more in lifetime earnings than a high school graduate. In addition to economic benefits, a college education brings a greater sense of perspective and understanding of the world we live in. So, planning for college is one of the most important steps you can take as a family.

Preparation is the key to college success, and we are here to offer tools and resources to help you and your student plan that path to college. To help ensure students' academic preparation for college, Colorado established the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR). If your student wants to attend a four-year public college or university in Colorado, he or she will need to complete classes in high school that meet the HEAR (see enclosure for an outline of these requirements). College In Colorado's website, www.CollegeInColorado.org, can help you build a high school coursework plan that meets the admission standards for the college your student may want to attend.

Let me offer a few additional tips in planning for college for your student:

- Encourage your student to take challenging classes in high school and to strive for excellence;
- Help your student cultivate outside interests and explore enjoyable activities;
- Promote participation in after-school activities such as sports, music, art, drama or dance;
- Support your student in volunteering and community service, or in taking a part-time job or an internship;
- See if your student's school offers a pre-collegiate assistance program, and take advantage of it;
- Talk to your student's counselor about options for your student after high school;
- Learn more about college planning at the College In Colorado website, www.CollegeInColorado.org, where you can find tools and information you need to plan, apply and pay for college.

A major reason I ran for Governor is that I want a good college education to be available and affordable for every Colorado student who wants to succeed, regardless of income. Colorado offers several programs to help you and your family prepare financially. Please take a look at the enclosed information sheet for more details.

It is never too early to start planning for college. Whatever your student may want to do in life, a two- or four-year college degree can help secure a future full of opportunity, with a wider variety of career options, improved salaries, unique experiences and greater life choices.

With my best wishes as you plan for the future,

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor of Colorado

Por favor, tome nota que la traducción al español de esta carta está disponible en el sitio de College In Colorado, en www.CollegeInColorado.org. También se pueden pedir copias contactándose con College In Colorado, 1801 Broadway, Suite 360, Denver, Colorado, 80202. Tel: 720-264-8500.

**NOTICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
AND HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION GUIDELINES**

Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR)*

High School Academic Area	2008/2009 Graduates	2010+ Graduates
English	4 years	4 years
Mathematics (Algebra I and higher)	3 years	4 years
Natural/Physical Sciences (two years must be lab-based)	3 years	3 years
Social Sciences (must include one year of U.S. or World History)	3 years	3 years
Foreign Language	N/A	2 years
Academic Electives**	2 years	2 years

*Requirements do not apply to community college admissions.

** For a list of Academic Electives, please contact your high school counselor.

These requirements are required for admission into:

Adams State College	Metropolitan State College of Denver
Colorado School of Mines	University of Colorado - Boulder
Colorado State University	University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
Colorado State University – Pueblo Center	University of Colorado - Denver & Health Sciences
Fort Lewis College	University of Northern Colorado
Mesa State College	Western State College

Please note: Compliance with the HEAR guidelines is necessary for acceptance, but is not a guarantee of admission to a state-supported institution of higher education.

Tuition assistance from the State of Colorado:

College Opportunity Fund (COF) for Colorado students. The College Opportunity Fund tuition stipend for eligible in-state, undergraduate students who attend a public college or university in Colorado provides between \$2064 per year and \$2580 per year, depending on course load, toward tuition for the 2006-07 school year; the COF for participating private colleges is one half that amount. The Colorado General Assembly establishes the amount of the tuition stipend each year, and the amount usually change each year. The stipend is available to all eligible students regardless of income. Your child may apply for the stipend at www.CollegeInColorado.org as early as age 13.

CollegeInvest Early Scholars Scholarship – formerly known as the College In Colorado scholarship – for 7th, 8th and 9th graders. To be eligible for this scholarship, students must apply in 7th, 8th or 9th grade and complete the Higher Education Admission Requirements. The scholarship encourages students to begin college planning early and provides financial support for high-need students who are academically prepared for college. Apply at www.CollegeInColorado.org.

Tuition varies at public colleges and universities in Colorado. Tuition in 2006-07 ranges from about \$3,800 at most community colleges to over \$9,000 at Colorado School of Mines for full-time students. Room and board costs - as well as fees, books, transportation and health insurance - are in addition to tuition expense. For current tuition rates and to view how the College Opportunity Fund reduces the amount of tuition a student will have to pay, visit www.CollegeInColorado.org.

Student Share. The College Opportunity Fund tuition stipend *reduces the student's share of tuition*. For example, the student share is reduced to \$1,789 at most community colleges and to \$7,848 at the Colorado School of Mines. The "student share amount" (also often called the expected family contribution) is the responsibility of the student and may be covered by a combination of financial aid – scholarships, grants, loans, work-study – and direct payment. Comprehensive financial aid information may be obtained at www.CollegeInColorado.org.

The Potential Need for Remedial Education

Early preparation in high school pays off. Taking high school coursework that does not meet the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR) or failure to pass the HEAR courses may require your child to take remedial math, reading or writing courses as he or she begins a four-year college. While successful completion of these courses will satisfy the requirements of the higher education admission guidelines, remedial coursework does *not* count toward degree completion and cost about \$75 per credit hour during the 2006-07 school year. So, remedial courses are costly in both time and money, and for every year beyond four years that a student takes to graduate college, you can count on an estimated \$150,000 in additional expenses and lost wages combined.

Anticipating Remedial Education Expenses. If your child falls behind in high school, remedial courses are available, sometimes free of charge. While students are still in high school they can take remedial coursework through weekend and summer school programs, as well as online classes and tutoring.

For more information about remedial programs contact Dawn.Taylorowens@cic.state.co.us or call 720-264-8565.

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