



Graduation Requirements Committee

October Update
11/4/08

PSD Graduation Requirements Committee Creates New Plan

On October 16, the Graduation Requirements Committee convened to review a draft of the revised timeline for the committee; review graduation credit requirements of surrounding school districts; and hear a presentation from Julia Pirnack from College in Colorado.

New Timeline, Plan Created

The committee reviewed the draft timeline, which extends the recommendation to the Board of Education to January/February 2010 to correspond with the state graduation requirements timeline. The Colorado Department of Education will provide graduation guidelines and standards in December 2009.

In the meantime, the committee will continue to determine essential components of graduation requirements, including defining post-secondary and workplace readiness knowledge, skills and abilities. The committee will look to the state to define school readiness and will seek input from the Chamber of Commerce on the definition of workforce readiness and essential components.

Early in 2009 the committee will formulate draft recommendations and collect feedback from staff, students, principals, the Chamber of Commerce and the P-16 committee. The work of the committee will primarily base its recommendation from the Board ends policy and consider guidelines and regulations from the state and federal level. The committee expects to conduct host sessions with the staff and public to gather input on the proposed recommendations later in 2009.

Once the state distributes its guidelines and standards, the committee will consider adjusting its recommendation prior to submitting the recommendation to the Superintendent. Currently, the committee expects to send a final recommendation to the Board in January of 2010.

Review of Graduation Credit Requirements

The committee reviewed the comparative graduation credit requirements of the following school districts: PSD, St. Vrain, Boulder, Douglas County, Cherry Creek, and Jeffco. In addition, the committee looked at entrance requirements of Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Colorado. The comparative information will be one informational piece used as the committee moves forward toward making a recommendation for PSD.

College in Colorado Resources

Julia Pirnack from College in Colorado reviewed the free information and resources available on the www.CollegeInColorado.org Web site which includes career exploration and planning; a high school occupational/coursework planner; ACT and SAT test preparation tools; financial aid information; college exploration tools; online college applications; counselor center and professional tools; and Web site training workshops. She encouraged use and promotion of the resources and tools available on the site.

Once the draft timeline is accepted by the committee it will be posted to the Web site. The next meeting will be held from 4-6 pm, on December 11, at the Partnership Center on Stover and Prospect.