



# Graduation Requirements Committee

October 2009 Update

## Graduation Requirements Committee begins sharing draft

In September, the Poudre School District (PSD) Graduation Requirements Committee started sharing information about proposed graduation requirement changes. PSD is inviting the Fort Collins community to learn about proposed graduation requirement changes. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback.

### Community and Parent Forums:

- 7-8:30 p.m., October 20, Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way
- 7-8:30 p.m., October 28, Rocky Mountain High School, 1300 W. Swallow

### PSD Staff Forums:

- 4-5 p.m., October 20, Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way
- 4-5 p.m., October 28, Rocky Mountain High School, 1300 W. Swallow

After the committee has reviewed all feedback and made adjustments to the proposal, the board of education will consider the final recommendation in February 2010. New graduation requirements may impact the class of 2014 or 2015 and all classes to follow.

The PSD 21<sup>st</sup> Century Graduation Requirements Committee has been meeting since February 2008 to develop a recommendation for PSD graduation requirements based on district policy, state guidelines, and input from Fort Collins' employers, PSD's pre-school through grade 16 partners and other local leaders.

The initial timeline was extended with the passage of the State's Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) legislation to take in to account the State's definition of "Post Secondary Workforce Ready" and the graduation guidelines that are due to be published in December of 2009.

### The committee has studied the following documents and information:

- *21st Century Skills and Framework*
- *Reimagining High School in Colorado report*
- *CAP4K legislation*
- *Governor's P-20 Councils work including the Postsecondary Workforce Ready definition*
- *Concurrent Enrollment legislation*
- *High school graduation requirements in surrounding districts*
- *Colorado Commission on Higher Education*
- *Board Ends Policy*
- *Expert panel discussions with the board of education*

### Key areas of current conversations include:

- Alignment of recommendations to the PSD Board Ends Policy 1.0 and 1.1
- Alignment of recommendations to state graduation guidelines
- Number of credits and classification:
  - 240 credits or 24 Carnegie units
  - Looking at requirements as areas of discipline
  - Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) areas and financial literacy
  - Exploring requirement ideas in world language and creative applications
- Standards-based education



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- Multiple pathways
- Career planning
- Graduation courses taught in middle school
- Endorsement categories
- Certificate categories

## **Upcoming Process and Timeline:**

- On September 17, department chairs listened to the committee's proposal. The presentation was followed by a review and input session.
- Department chairs and principals will share the committee's draft recommendations, review and offer input.
- In October, parents, community and staff members will be invited to provide input.
- In November and December, the committee will review the feedback and make adjustments.
- In January, the committee will make a presentation of draft recommendations and PSD administration will offer input.
- In late January, during the January board of education study session, the committee will present the draft recommendations and then make suggested changes or adjustments.
- In February, the board of education is scheduled to vote on the recommendations made by the committee.

Committee meeting minutes, updates and timelines are available on the PSD Web site at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org). For more information on the Graduation Requirements Committee, contact Manny Ortega, assistant superintendent of secondary schools at 970-490-3201 or email [mortega@psdschools.org](mailto:mortega@psdschools.org).