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# Adams County Education Consortium

March 18, 2009



# COLORADO SUCCEEDS

great schools are good business

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**Colorado Succeeds is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business leaders committed to improving education for workforce development and economic growth.**



**COLORADO SUCCEEDS**  
*great schools are good business*



east west partners



# COLORADO SUCCEEDS

great schools are good business

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## 1. Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Post-secondary and workforce readiness

- Achievement gap
- Graduation rate
- Post-secondary

## 2. Work-force expectations

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

# Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills



**“Only one-third of our students graduate from high school ready for college, work and citizenship.”**

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“America’s high schools are obsolete.

By obsolete, I don’t just mean that they’re broken, flawed or under-funded, though a case could be made for every one of those points. By obsolete, I mean our high schools — even when they’re working as designed — cannot teach all our students what they need to know today.”



Bill Gates, NGA, February 26, 2006

# High School Graduation Rates

## International Comparison

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- ❑ Forty years ago, the United States led the world in producing high school graduates. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 86 percent of 55-64 year olds in the U.S. have a high school diploma.\*
- ❑ Today the United States' high school graduation rate is 75 percent, which places it in a tie for seventeenth out of the twenty-two OECD countries.\*
- ❑ Colorado ranks 30th in the country for high school graduation rates; only 56% of African-American students and 44% of Hispanic students graduate from high school.

\*Education at a Glance 2006 (annual report of education statistics from OECD)




# High School Graduation Rates

## International Comparison

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- ❑ An “upper secondary qualification” (the international equivalent of a high school diploma) is the “baseline for successful entry into the labor market.
- ❑ Based on the significant increase in their graduation rates, most of the United States’ international counterparts have figured that out and have moved past the United States in the rankings.



# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills so Important?

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Colorado students are now competing in the new global economy. They are already in a flat world.

In 10 years it is predicted that the number one English speaking country in the world will be China



# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills so Important?

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**The U.S. is falling behind.**

**2006 College graduates:**

U.S. = 1.3 million

India = 3.1 million

China = 3.3 million



# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills so Important?

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**The nature of work is changing.**

The top 10 jobs that will be in demand in 2010 didn't exist in 2004



# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills so Important?

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**Requirements of the workforce are changing.**

U.S. Department of Labor estimates that today's learner will have 10-14 jobs by age 38



# Name this country:

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- Richest** in the world
- Largest** military
- Center** of world business and finance
- Strongest** education system
- Currency** the world standard of value
- Highest** standard of living

# Great Britain

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**in 1900**



# Workforce Survey:

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**“Are They Really Ready to  
Work?”**

Released October 2, 2006, by The Conference Board, Corporate Voices for Working Families, Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, and the Society for Human Resource Management groups.

# Why 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills?

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What skills are most important for job success when hiring a High School graduate?

Work Ethic	80%
Collaboration	75%
Good Communication	70%
Social Responsibility	63%
Critical Thinking & Problem Solving	58%

# Why 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills?

Of the High School Students that you recently hired, what were their deficiencies?

Written Communication	81%
Leadership	73%
Work Ethic	70%
Critical Thinking & Problem Solving	70%
Self-Direction	58%

# Why 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills?

What skills and content areas will be growing in importance in the next five years?

Critical Thinking	78%
I.T.	77%
Health & Wellness	76%
Collaboration	74%
Innovation	74%
Personal Financial Responsibility	72%



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Framework

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## Thinking and Learning Skills

- ❑ Critical Thinking & Problem Solving Skills
- ❑ Creativity & Innovation Skills
- ❑ Communication & Information Skills
- ❑ Collaboration Skills

(These skills are critical in a flat world.)



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Framework

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Content

- ❑ Global Awareness
- ❑ Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurship Literacy
- ❑ Civic Literacy
- ❑ Health & Wellness Awareness

# Council on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

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- ❑ **Navigator Conference**, June 2007 – 200 participants from across Colorado including, the new commissioner, 4 members of the state board of education, 11 legislators, 3 appointees to the P-20 Council, 23 superintendents K-12 and postsecondary educators, students & parents
- ❑ In a Rapidly Changing World, Education Isn't – Education system rooted in the Industrial Era while we live in a Digital Age
- ❑ There is broad consensus on the essential skills of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, yet little of what we formally teach or measure relates to these essentials
- ❑ Only 27% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that Colorado is ready for significant, system level changes to bring education in alignment with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning



# Business Voice for Education

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- Model content standards include financial literacy and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
- Individual Career and Academic Plans (iCAPs)
- ROI
- Post-secondary and workforce readiness
- Career Academy model



## FIVE DESIGN ELEMENTS FOR EDUCATION REDESIGN LEADING ALL STUDENTS TO POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE READINESS

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- Student-centered focus
- Relevant and rigorous real-world connections
- A portfolio of interest-based and career-themed pathways
- Personalized planning for postsecondary and careers
- Accountability for continuous improvement

