

In 2012, legislation concerning the administration of basic skills college placement assessments to public school students was introduced in Colorado, HB 12-1345. Specifically, the legislation stated that the State shall allocate moneys to offset the costs incurred in administering each of the college placement test units only once per student while he or she is enrolled in grades nine through twelve. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has worked collaboratively with the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and with the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) to determine the course of action that would most appropriately and effectively support the needs of school districts interested in administering basic skills placement assessments to high school students.

According to DHE policy, the following instruments may be used to satisfy these legislative requirements: ACT, SAT and ACCUPLACER. The relevant placement scores that Colorado currently uses from these three assessment instruments to determine if a student is college ready in mathematics, writing, and reading are listed below.

Skill Area	ACT Subscore	SAT Subscore	ACCUPLACER Score
Mathematics	Math: 19	Math: 460	Elementary Algebra: 85
Writing	English: 18	Verbal: 440	Sentence Skills: 95
Reading	Reading: 17	Verbal: 430	Reading Comprehension: 80

Given that the one of these assessments Colorado already administers to each eleventh grade student, the Colorado ACT, is a college entrance exam; it has been determined that administration of the ACCUPLACER may also be useful to Colorado schools and districts. Therefore, CDE, DHE and CCCS will work collaboratively to provide support and resources for administration of the ACCUPLACER to Colorado public high school students. As presented in the table above, students may currently use scores from three of the ACCUPLACER assessments to demonstrate that they do not require postsecondary remediation. These assessments include 1) Elementary Algebra, 2) Sentence Skills, and 3) Reading Comprehension. It is important to note that institutions of higher education will continue to accept ACT and SAT scores as part of their placement requirements, as is currently in policy.

As CCCS already is familiar with ACCUPLACER and is trained in its administration procedures, CCCS has agreed to go into interested high schools and administer the assessments. This will prevent districts from having to be involved in procurement/purchasing, test administration training and the processing of reimbursements. CCCS will work with participating districts to identify the students who will be tested and to set up an administration schedule. After administration of the assessments, both the participating school and the student will receive copies of the student report. CCCS will collect all assessment data securely and provide it to DHE. The law allows for districts to use the state-sponsored program to provide the ACCUPLACER free of charge to each student one time during his/her high school career. CCCS will be responsible for tracking the students who have taken ACCUPLACER. Based on the number of assessed students, CDE will provide reimbursements directly to CCCS that already has a contract with College Board, the vendor of ACCUPLACER.

Each high school within a school district has been assigned a CCCS representative who will facilitate the administration process. The CCCS contact person for each district is listed below under the "Community College Assessment Liaison Contact Information." Districts that would like further information or that are interested in participating in the administration of the ACCUPLACER assessments should contact the designated CCCS representative that has been

assigned to their district. Should you have any questions about this program, please contact Casey Sacks by email at casey.sacks@cccs.edu or by phone at 720-858-2841.

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