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COLORADO EVALUATION AND ACTION LAB

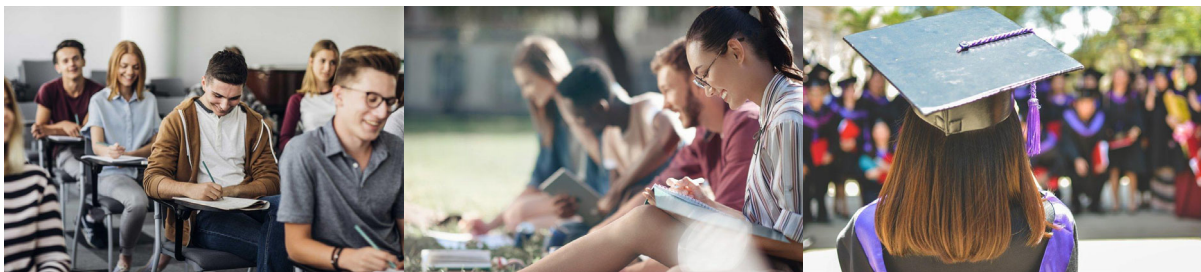
Colorado Lab Newsletter

September 2020

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Concurrent Enrollment: A Pathway to Success



Throughout Colorado, more high school students than ever are taking college courses before graduation. The state supports this through a program called Concurrent Enrollment and a [new report from the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab](#) shows that it has the power to help students graduate from college and earn more in their early careers.

Recognizing the power of education in improving the lives of Colorado residents, Governor Jared Polis has set an ambitious goal that 66% of the state's adults ages 25 to 34 will achieve postsecondary credentials by 2025. The [Colorado Department of Higher Education \(CDHE\)](#) and the [Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) both recognize the power of allowing high school students to begin earning college credit as an important step toward this goal.

Each year, CDHE and CDE study their progress. According to [their report released today](#), more than 50,000 students took at least one dual enrollment course during the 2018-19 academic year, a 9.2% jump from 2017-18.

“Concurrent Enrollment is a critical program that has benefits for a variety of students,” said Gov. Jared Polis. “These courses allow students to challenge themselves in new and innovative ways and explore new fields of study, saving an estimated \$50 million dollars on tuition.”

This year, the Colorado Lab teamed up with the [Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado Boulder](#), CDHE, CDE, and the US Department of Education to augment the report with a research study on how the state’s Concurrent Enrollment program contributes to college graduation rates and workforce earnings. Their findings were dramatic.

[Read the Full Blog Post](#)

Colorado Lab Now a Preferred Vendor for the State of Colorado

A Master Task Agreement makes it easier for any state government department to contract with the Colorado Lab, which is now preferred as a vendor for research and evaluation services up to \$1 million. Indirect costs are capped at 15% for services procured under this agreement. For more information, contact the Lab’s Deputy Director, Elysia Clemens at elysia@coloradolab.org.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

New Dashboard: Colorado's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workforce

Last month, the Colorado Lab launched the [Colorado Early Care & Education Workforce Data Dashboard](#). This interactive portal provides access to data such as the counts and characteristics of the ECE workforce and customizable data briefs by geography of interest.

The Dashboard can help identify local educator shortages, disproportionate shortages by certain professions, areas with high turnover, and areas that are demonstrating successful growth. Relationships built through the [Linked Information Network of Colorado \(LINC\)](#) in service of a [study of the early care and education workforce](#) funded by the [Piton Foundation](#) and the [Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation](#) drove the project.

Report Links Traumatic Brain Injury and Recidivism

Half of the people convicted of crimes in Colorado return to the criminal justice system within three years. Seeking a deeper understanding of the issue, researchers at the University of Denver partnered with the Colorado Division of Probation Services, with funding from the Colorado Lab. Their study examined the significant link between recidivism and traumatic brain injury (TBI). In a [report](#) released last month, they describe that link and identify strategies that criminal justice professionals can use to help those with TBI to re-enter the community effectively, avoiding re-offense.

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