POSTSECONDARY & WORKFORCE READINESS IN COLORADO: WHAT IT MEANS TO CTE

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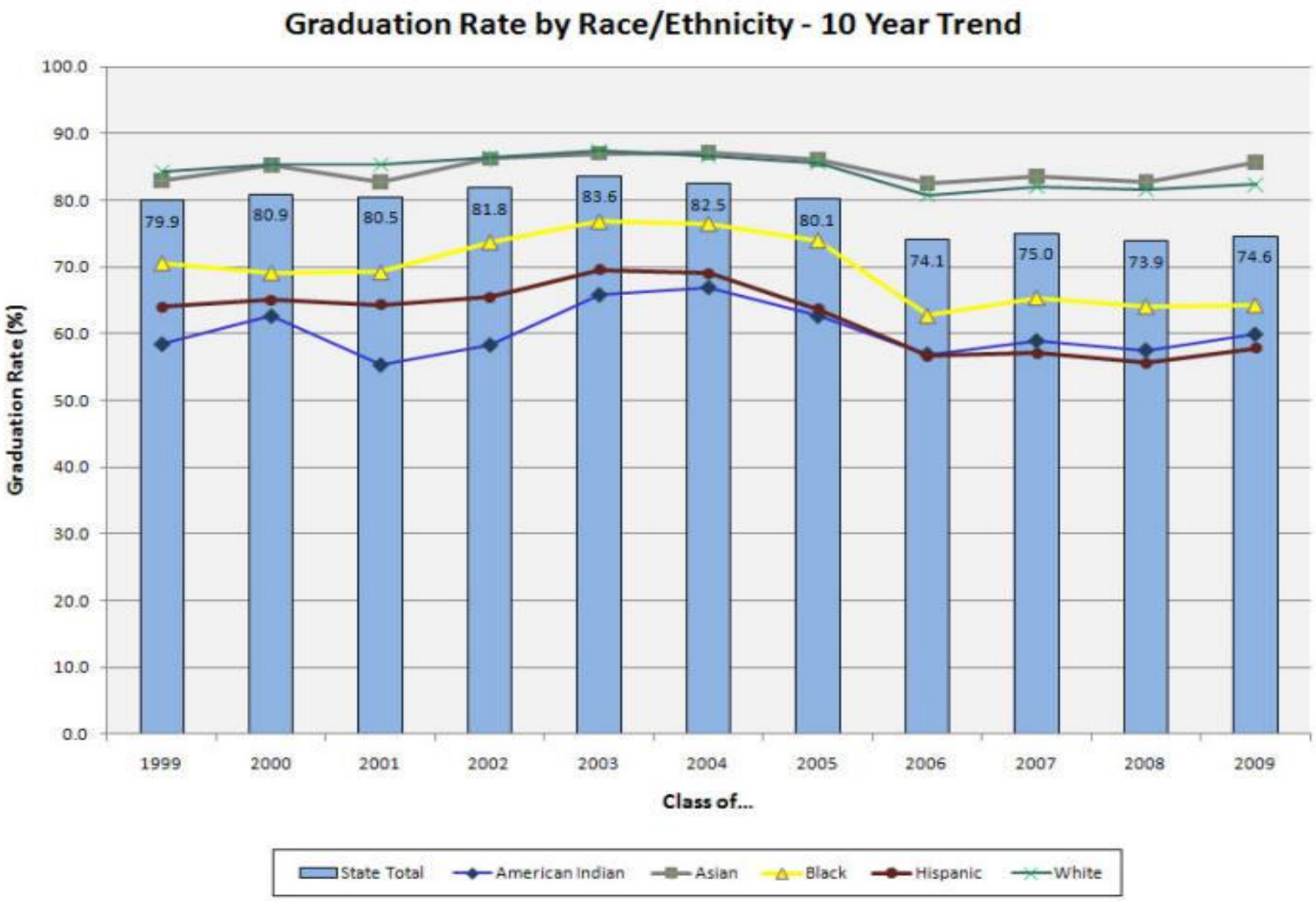
Context: History

- Governor Ritter established three principal goals:
  - Close achievement gaps among students
  - Halve the high school dropout rate
  - Double degrees and certificates earned by Coloradans
- In 2007,
  - the state's education systems were not aligned;
  - HEAR requirements did not recognize CTE classes;
  - Prior focus had been on the production of degrees in liberal arts and sciences, not necessarily applied programs.

Context: High School Completion

(Colorado Department of Education)



Context: Completion

Dropout Rates, 16-24 Year-Olds, 1980 – 2008
(National Center for Education Statistics)

	White	Hispanic/Latino	African - American	Asian
1980	11.4	35.2	19.1	--
1990	9.0	32.4	13.2	4.9
2000	6.9	27.8	13.1	3.8
2008	4.8	18.3	9.9	4.4

Context: Attainment Gap

- Degree Attainment Gap in Colorado =

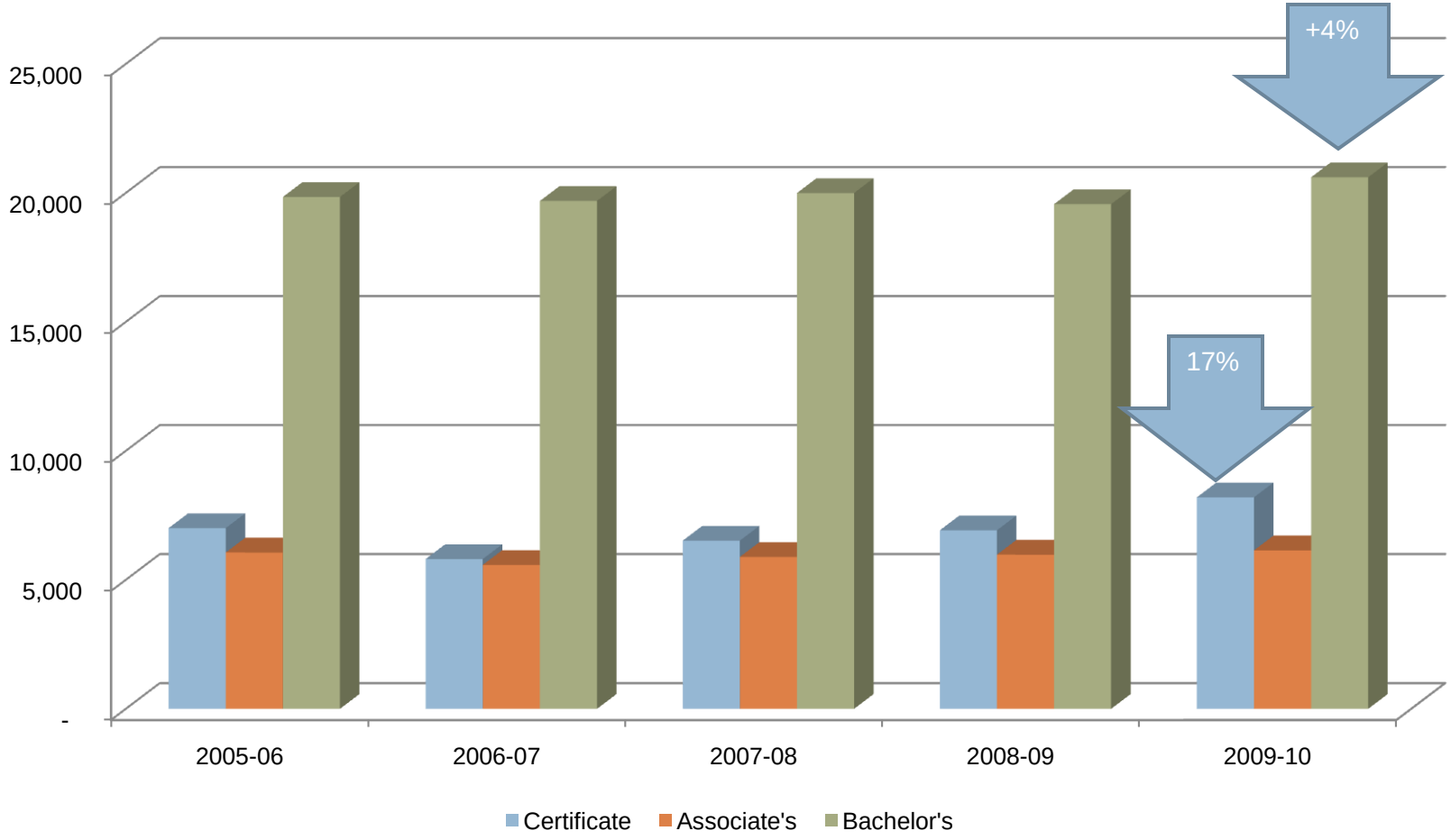
White attainment (52.4%)

– Minority attainment (24.8%)

= Gap (27.6%) **(National Center for Higher Education Management Systems)**

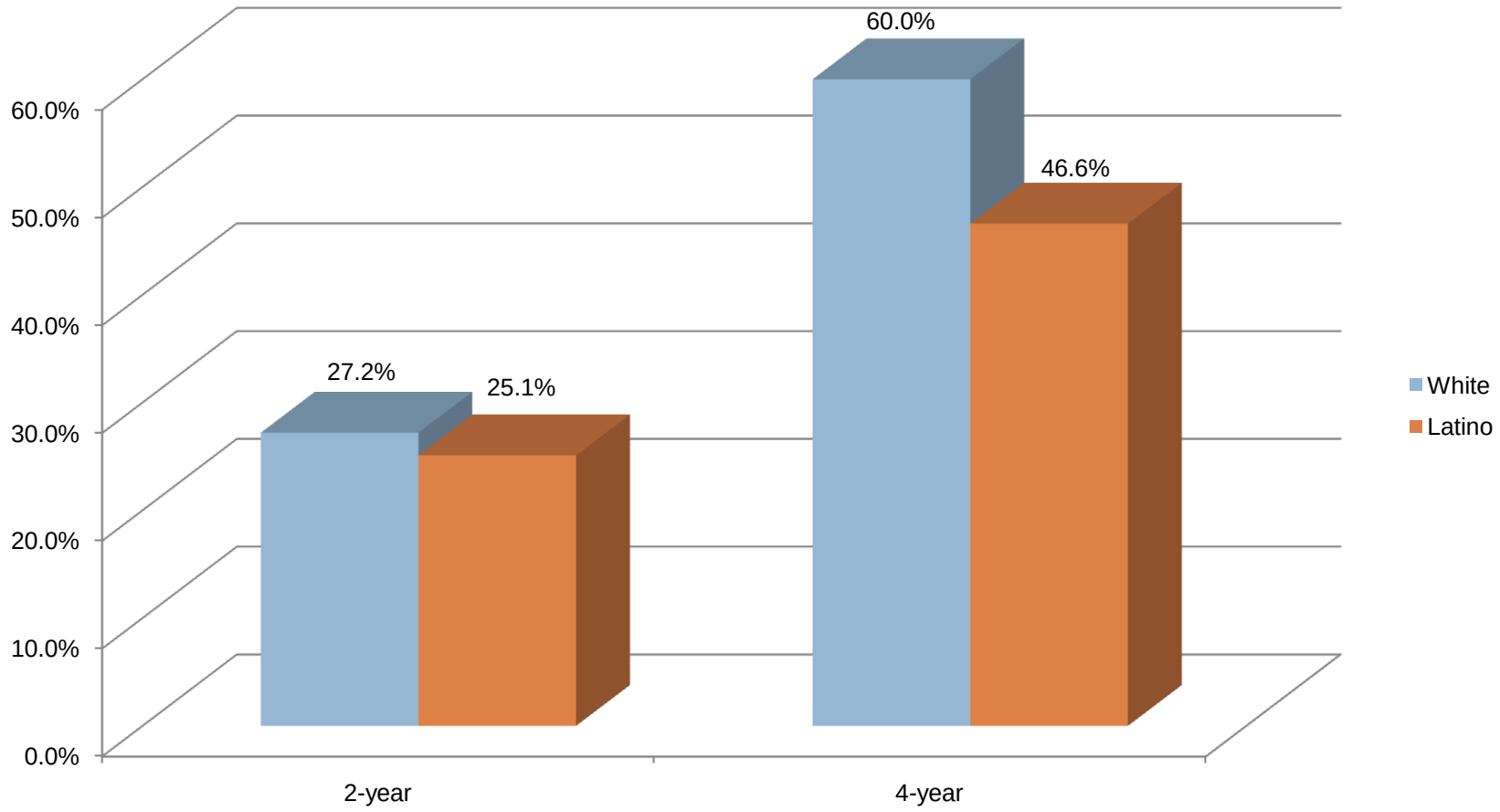
*Widest attainment gap in the United States (NCHEMS)

Context: Degree Productivity by Type, 2005-06 – 2009-10 (Colorado Department of Higher Education)



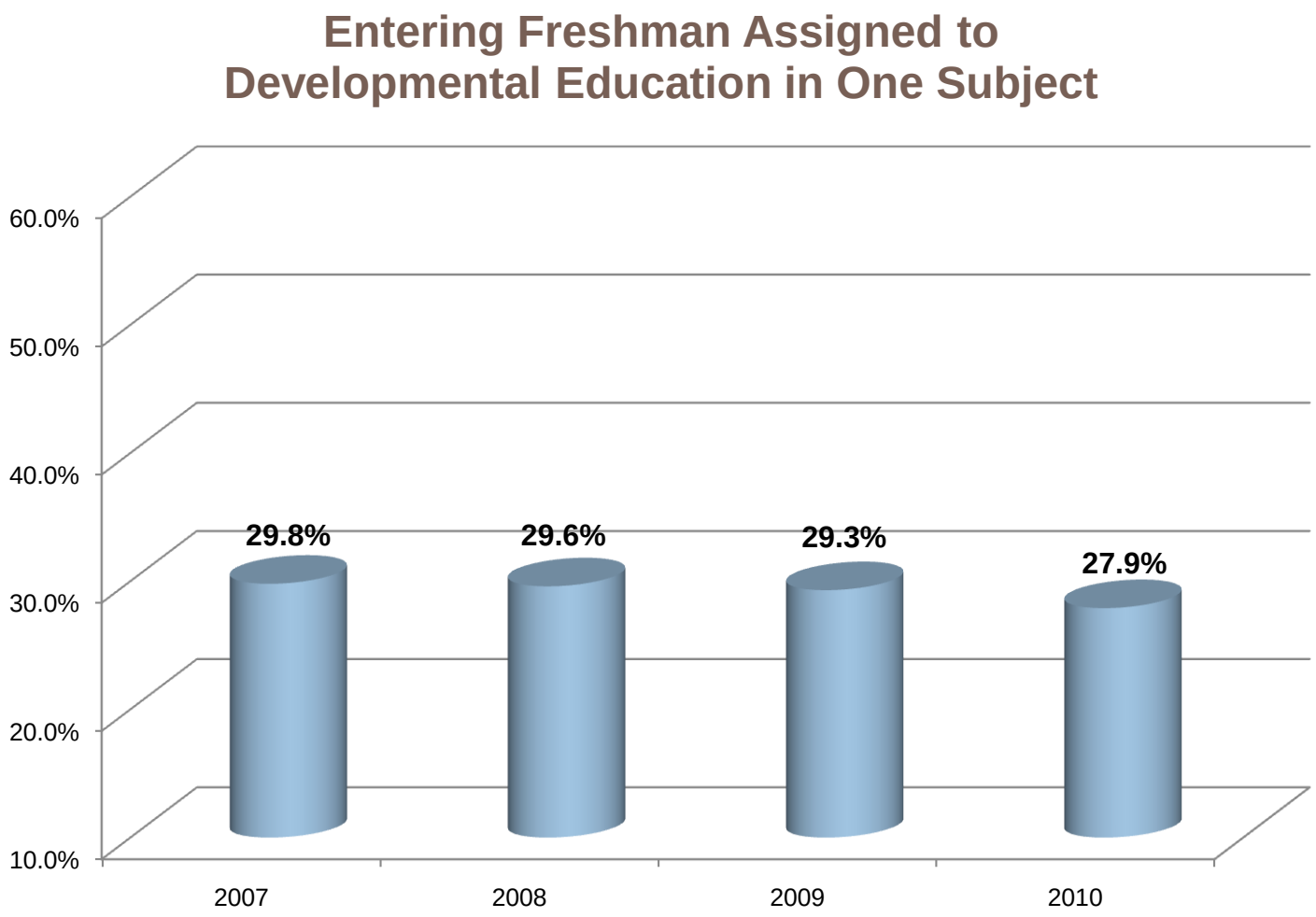
Context: On-time Postsecondary Degree Completion

(Colorado Department of Higher Education)



Context: Readiness

(CDHE, 2011)



Context: Future Goals

To reach President Obama's goal of 60% postsecondary degree attainment by 2025, Colorado would have to produce an additional **230,442** credentials

(National Center for Higher Education Management Systems)

Context: Closing the Degree Gap

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Certificate	7,006	5,807	6,520	6,921	8,200
Associates	6,060	5,580	5,889	5,976	6,143
Bachelors	19,844	19,690	19,998	19,565	20,608
Total	**32,910**	**31,077**	**32,407**	**32,462**	**34,951**
Additional Credentials Needed Each Year To Meet 60% Target by 2025					**15,363**

Action: P-20 Policy

- Inter-system Policy Alignment
  - Standards and Assessments
  - Admission and Remediation Policies
  - Concurrent Enrollment Policies
  - Teacher Education/Effectiveness Policies
  - Competency-based Education

- Longitudinal Data System Alignment

Action: American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA)

- Largest Education Reform Bill in the History of the United States
  - $5 Billion in competitions for education innovations
    - Race to the Top
    - National Assessment Development Grants
  - State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)
    - College and Career Ready Standards
    - Teacher Effectiveness
    - Low Performing School Turnaround
    - Longitudinal Data System Development

In Secretary Duncan's Own Words…

- http://www2.ed.gov/news/av/video/2009/04/04282009a.html

Actions: Trends in Policy

Then	Now
Carnegie Units	“Ready by exit” (PWR)
State Standards (3-10)	Common Core/PWR Standards (PK-13)
CSAPs	PWR Assessments
Accountability	Productivity
Data Silos	Longitudinal Data Systems
College Access	College *Completion*
Matriculation after graduation	Matriculation when ready

Action: CAP4K

- For the first time in state history, established uniform description of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR)
- Aligned and “Backmapped” state content standards from postsecondary readiness to PK (instead of other way around)
- Requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to adjust admission and remediation policies be “fitted” to new standards and assessments.
- Guarantees admission to higher education* for all students who demonstrate readiness

CAP4K Timeline

- 2008: Bill signed
- 2009: PWR description adopted by CCHE & SBE; new standards adopted (December)
- 2010: Description of new assessments adopted; Common Core National Standards adopted
- 2011: New standards to be adopted by school districts
- 2012: New standards to be implemented by districts (class of 2016)
- 2014: CCHE admission and remediation policies to be adjusted to conform to PWR

Action: Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness

- Adopted by the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education on June 30, 2009

- "Describes the knowledge, skills, and behaviors essential for high school graduates to be prepared to enter college and the workforce and to compete in the global economy."

- Example: Mathematical Sciences
  - Think critically, analyze evidence, read graphs, understand logical arguments, detect logical fallacies, test conjectures, evaluate risks, and appreciate the role mathematics plays in the modern world, i.e., be quantitatively literate
  - Understand and apply algebraic and geometric concepts and techniques
  - Use concepts and techniques of probability and statistics
  - Apply knowledge of mathematics to problem solve, analyze issues, and make critical decisions that arise in everyday life

Action: America Competes Act of 2007

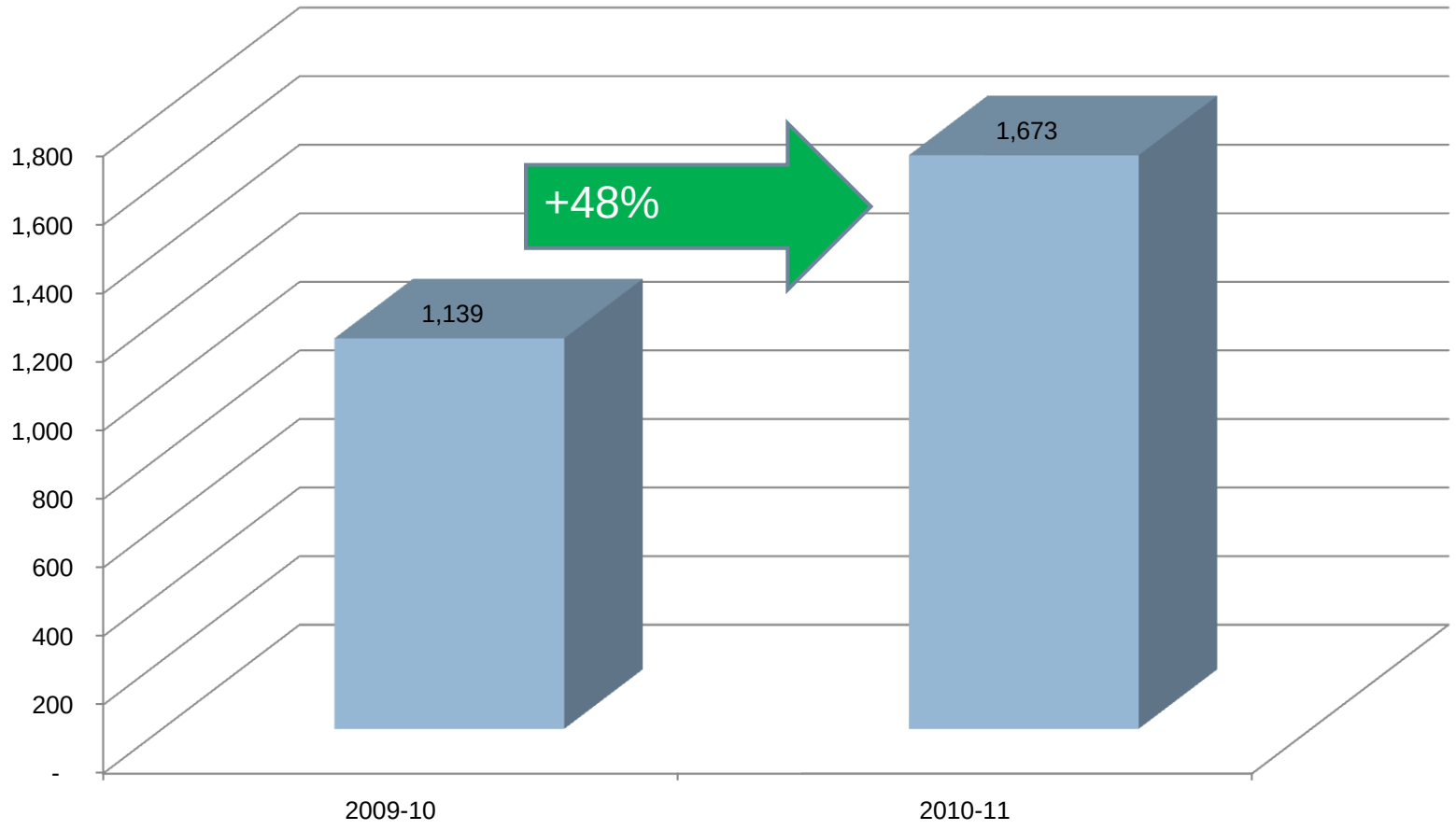
(HR 2272, Sec. 6401)

- (1) GRANTS FOR P-16 ALIGNMENT- Each State receiving a grant under subsection (c)(1)--
- (A) shall use the grant funds for--
- (i) identifying and describing the content knowledge and skills students who enter institutions of higher education, the workforce, and the Armed Forces need to have in order to succeed without any remediation based on detailed requirements obtained from institutions of higher education, employers, and the Armed Forces;
- (ii) identifying and making changes that need to be made to a State's secondary school graduation requirements, academic content standards, academic achievement standards, and assessments preceding graduation from secondary school in order to align the requirements, standards, and assessments with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in academic credit-bearing coursework in postsecondary education, in the 21st century workforce, and in the Armed Forces without the need for remediation;

Action: Concurrent Enrollment Act (2009)

- 2009: Concurrent Enrollment policy adopted.
- Struck PSEO, FastTrack, and Fast College, Fast Jobs statutes
- Changes included:
  - Eliminating age and grade-level entry requirements
  - Expanding concurrent enrollment to <u>all</u> postsecondary courses
    - SB 09-285 specifically authorized CTE participation in concurrent enrollment programs
  - Allowing students to take developmental courses in 12th grade
  - Creating a "5th year" program (ASCENT) for students who complete 12 credit hours of postsecondary education before 12th grade and do not need remediation

Action: Example of Concurrent Enrollment Growth at CCA (2009-10 – 2010-11)



Action: Accreditation

- As a result of the growth of concurrent enrollment in Aurora, four high schools—Aurora Central, Rangeview, William Smith, and Overland—have been accredited as official Community College of Aurora “sites.”
- This means that CCA credentials can be issued through the high schools.
- Next Site: Vista PEAK Campus in APS?

What's Next?

- Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
  - (In the 103rd Congress)

NCLB & Blueprint: Accountability

(Source: US Department of Education)

NCLB	Blueprint
"Race to the bottom" for state standards	States adopt college- and career-ready standards.
Focus on proficiency; schools making progress can still be "failing"	Differentiation of schools based on student growth and school progress.
Many ways to "fail," no recognition for success	Real rewards for high-poverty schools, districts and states showing real progress, especially in serving underserved populations and closing achievement gaps.
Exclusive focus on tests, narrowing of curriculum	Develop and support the use of better assessments. Look beyond assessments to determine what a school needs, including attendance, conditions for learning, course completion, to paint a fuller picture of a school. Allow use of additional subjects. Additional resources for developing a well-rounded curriculum

Opportunities for CTE: Discussion

- PWR can be accomplished by <u>any</u> coursework aligned with the new standards

- Concurrent enrollment is open to CTE; these courses can apply to both high school and postsecondary credentials

- CTE programs can help ensure that districts have multiple opportunities to provide coursework that prepares all graduates for college and career.

- Watch the reauthorization of the ESEA (NCLB)

- National Governors Association's 2010-11 agenda: Complete to Compete (postsecondary completion)