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**Guidelines for High School Graduation**  
**Key Dates in HB 07-1118 as Modified by SB 08-212 and HB 10-1013**

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*Colorado Association of School Boards*  
*June 1, 2011*

House Bill 07-1118 established a process for developing guidelines for high school graduation at the state level that will be considered as each local board of education revises its own local graduation requirements. In 2008, the Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act (SB 08-212) was passed. This legislation takes standards-based education to the next level. Included in the SB 08-212 reforms remains the process set forth in HB 07-1118.

A complete timeline for implementation of SB 08-212 is beyond the scope of this memorandum. The initial responsibilities of SB 212 are directed specifically to the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). The dates, which were amended by HB 10-1013, that relate specifically to high school students are included in this document.

The following timeline addresses key steps in the process of modifying graduation requirements with a focus on the responsibilities of the local board of education. Most activities must occur on or before the date listed. SB 08-212 and HB 10-1013 did modify the previous timeline originally established by HB 07-1118.

**December 15, 2011** – the State Board will adopt a comprehensive set of guidelines regarding high school graduation requirements to be used by each school district board of education when developing local high school graduation requirements. The local school board retains the authority to develop its own unique graduation requirements as long as they meet or exceed any minimum standards or basic core competencies or skills identified in the guidelines created by the State Board. (Although the date was modified from the original date of July 1, 2008, this requirement in HB 07-1118 remains unchanged.)

**Prior to the 2012 school year** – local school boards must undertake a community-based process to develop a blueprint for the education system in the community and to determine the skills students will need to be successful after graduation. School boards shall seek input from the community at large, which may include students, parents, business persons, neighboring school districts, and BOCES. (Originally, this date was July 1, 2009 in HB 07-1118.)

School boards shall use this blueprint, along with guidelines for high school graduation requirements developed by the State Board to establish high school graduation requirements applicable to students enrolling in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade beginning with the 2012-13 school year<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>If a school board has undertaken a comprehensive community-based process and has revised its high school graduation requirements within the previous two years, it does not need to develop a new blueprint or make revisions to its high school graduation requirements.

Each school board shall report its blueprint and its new or revised high school graduation requirements to the public through the accreditation process as determined by the State Board. In its report, the school board shall demonstrate how its high school graduation requirements meet or exceed any minimum standards, core competencies or skills identified in the Guidelines for High School Graduation Requirements.

**December 15, 2010, or as soon thereafter as fiscally practicable**—the State Board shall adopt a system of assessments that are aligned with the new or revised standards. Along with adoption of the assessments, the State Board shall also make recommendations concerning a system of ratings for public schools that recognizes each school's success in supporting the longitudinal academic growth of students.

**December 15, 2010, or as soon thereafter as fiscally practicable**—the State Board and the CCHE shall negotiate a consensus and adopt one or more postsecondary and workforce planning assessments, postsecondary and workforce preparation assessments, and postsecondary and workforce readiness assessments that local education providers shall administer.

**July 1, 2011, or as soon thereafter as fiscally practicable**—the State Board shall adopt criteria that a local school board may apply if the board chooses to endorse high school diplomas to indicate that students have achieved postsecondary and workforce readiness. There will be several types of endorsements available to recognize outstanding achievement and particular areas of focus.

**On or before December 15, 2011**—each local board shall review its preschool through elementary and secondary education standards in comparison with the state standards to ensure that the local standards meet or exceed the state standards. The local board is also required to review the curricula provided by its high schools to ensure that a student who successfully completes the curricula will be prepared to demonstrate postsecondary and workforce readiness prior to or upon attaining a diploma.

**Beginning with the 2012-13 academic year**—additional services must be provided to any student enrolled in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade who cannot demonstrate competency in English. CDE is in the process of conducting a cost study to address the resources necessary to implement this and all requirements of SB 08-212.

**On or before December 15, 2013**—each student who enrolls in a public high school shall enroll in and successfully complete a postsecondary and workforce readiness program. Each student will be required to enroll in this type of program, with the exception of special education students. Each high school student's final transcript shall describe the student's level of postsecondary and workforce readiness. This may also become a graduation requirement.