



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200

Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	General Education Council August 10, 2026 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Location	Virtual Only
Call-In Information	View Meeting Recording
Meeting Participants	The General Education Council (GE Council) is comprised of representatives from each of the 31 public institutions of higher education, including area technical colleges, local district colleges, and dual mission institutions.
Meeting Objectives	The GE Council is a statutorily created entity (CRS §23-1-108.5(3)(a)) with oversight responsibilities for various statewide transfer initiatives, most prominently GT Pathways and Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (STAAs). GE Council typically meets monthly, to carry out different statutory responsibilities assigned by the General Assembly.

AGENDA – NOTES

I. GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS

1. Welcome (Brad Griffith)
2. Attendance (Christina Carrillo)

In attendance: Richard Allen (CU Denver); Erica Anderson (MSU Denver); Wayne Artis (CCCS-PPSC); Laurel Becker (WCU); Barb Benedict (CCCS-PCC); Kelsey Bennett (WCU); Brad Bowers (CCCS-PCC); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Joe Charleman; Rachelle Davis (CCCS-NJC); Maureen Durkin (CU-SYS); Kelly Emick (CCCS-LCC); Stephani Etheridge-Woodson (UNC); Michael Galchinsky (CSU); Marty Goldberg (CCCS); Theresa Groff (CCCS-ACC); Kyle Gruenhagen (UCCS); Michael Gulliksen (CCCS-FRCC); Roze Hentschell (CSU-SYS); Sara Holzberlein (EGTC); Jennifer Kroetch; Kyle Lasley (CCCS-OC); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Pete McCormick (FLC); Andrew Miller (CCCS-PCC); Kate Monteith (CCCS); Ashley Nels (CCCS-FRCC); Christiane Olivo (CCCS-MCC); Katherine Olson (CSUG); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Angie Peach (CCCS-FRCC); Jessica Peters (CCCS-RRCC); Kathryn Regjo (CMC); Scott Reichel (Aims); Liliana Renteria Mendoza (CCCS-RRCC); Kari Schafenberger (CCCS); Karyl Shawcroft (CCCS-PCC); Nicholas Swails (CCCS-

CNCC); Patrick Tally (CU Boulder); Meagan Tracy (WCU); Lexi Wieringa; Kaylah Zelig (CCCS-CCD); Katie Zabeck (Zabeck Solutions); Eric Tucker (CCHE); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Spencer Ellis (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

II. Adoption of last meeting's notes

1. *[See handout: 2026-07-13–GE Council-DRAFT NOTES.docx]*
Notes approved

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Review of July 2026 proposal votes
Brad reviewed the results of the July 2026 GT Pathways proposal voting cycle. Nineteen institutions participated in the vote, and all but one proposal received sufficient support to move forward. The approved proposals will be advanced to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) through the consent agenda process for final consideration. Members were reminded to continue reviewing proposals each month and to submit evaluations and institutional votes within established timelines to support the statewide review process. CDHE will distribute upcoming proposal materials and voting forms as part of the regular monthly cycle.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Awareness Week Initiative
Kari Shafenberg from the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) presented plans for Colorado's inaugural Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Awareness Week, proposed for the third full week of September. The initiative is intended to increase awareness of CPL opportunities, highlight Colorado's leadership in recognizing prior learning, and emphasize the benefits of CPL in reducing costs and accelerating degree completion. Planned activities include expert panels featuring institutional representatives and subject-matter experts, student and employer testimonials demonstrating CPL's impact, and informational resources designed to help students better understand available CPL pathways. CCCS, CDHE, the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC), and MSU Denver's College of Business are among the initial partners supporting the effort. Council members were encouraged to consider participating through panel presentations, testimonials, or institutional spotlights, and CDHE will distribute presentation materials and additional information as planning continues.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING AWARENESS WEEK IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2026

2. Proposed removal of Arapahoe Community College (ACC) from Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements (STAAs) in Geology and Geography

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3. Proposed removal of Community College of Aurora (CCA) from STAA in Spanish
4. Proposed removal of Adams State University (ASU) from STAA in Early Childhood Education

Council members reviewed proposed removals of ACC from the Geography and Geology STAAs, CCA from the Spanish STAA, and ASU from the Early Childhood Education STAA. Institutional representatives explained that the removals were driven primarily by low enrollment and the administrative burden associated with maintaining and assessing low-enrollment programs despite continued availability of many of the underlying courses. Discussion expanded into a broader conversation regarding Degrees with Designation (DwDs), including whether associate degrees with emphases that follow approved STAA curricula should receive the same treatment as formally designated DwDs. Members expressed concerns that current interpretations may create unintended barriers for students at institutions that structure STAA pathways as emphases rather than standalone programs. Department staff agreed to further research statutory intent and consult legal counsel regarding common degree program language and potential implications for transfer guarantees, with additional discussion anticipated at a future meeting.

5. Proposed GT Pathways waiver request for Bachelor of Applied Sciences (BAS) in Healthcare Administration for ACC, Front Range Community College (FRCC), Pikes Peak State College (PPSC), Pueblo Community College (PCC) and Red Rocks Community College (RRCC)

Council members reviewed a proposed GT Pathways waiver request for the BAS in Healthcare Administration and Management offered by several Colorado community colleges. Angie Peach explained that the degree was intentionally designed as a workforce-focused bachelor's completion pathway for graduates of healthcare-related associate degree programs who have already completed substantial technical, clinical, scientific, and general education coursework. The program allows students to apply up to 80 prior credits toward degree completion and focuses remaining coursework on healthcare administration, leadership, finance, compliance, and business competencies. Members discussed the role of applied bachelor's degrees, concerns regarding unnecessary duplication of general education requirements, and forthcoming policy revisions related to BAS programs. Council members will review the proposal through the regular voting process, after which recommendations will move forward for consideration by the Commission's Student Success and Workforce Alignment Standing Committee.

6. Discussion of [HB26-1078](#) and Concurrent Enrollment courses

Carl facilitated a discussion regarding implementation questions associated with House Bill 26-1078. The conversation focused on longstanding concurrent enrollment statutory

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language referencing courses approved by CDHE for transfer and the satisfaction of prerequisites for specific majors. Staff noted that CDHE does not currently maintain a process for approving prerequisite courses outside of existing GT Pathways and STAA frameworks and expressed concern that creating such a process would require substantial administrative effort with limited demonstrated value. Discussion explored possible interpretations of the statutory language, including its relationship to GT Pathways courses, statewide transfer agreements, and institution-specific transfer pathways. While no support emerged for creating a new statewide prerequisite approval process, members encouraged continued examination of the legislative intent behind the provision. CDHE will continue researching the issue, including consultation with legislative stakeholders and review of any available historical context, while leaving the possibility of future discussion open should additional information emerge.

7. Finalize draft reports

- **Colorado Statewide Transfer Degrees Report AY2015-2024**

Brad presented a draft statewide outcomes report examining STAA/DwD usage between academic years 2015 and 2024. The report showed substantial growth in student participation and demonstrated that DwD students transfer at higher rates, complete bachelor's degrees at higher rates, remain in their intended fields of study more frequently, and accumulate fewer excess credits than students completing non-DwD associate degrees. Members generally agreed that the findings support the effectiveness of Colorado's statewide transfer system and reinforce the value of structured transfer pathways. Discussion focused on opportunities to strengthen future reporting, including providing additional context for transfer and completion metrics, examining longer-term outcomes, incorporating transfer pathways outside of formal STAAs, clarifying methodology, and exploring program-level trends. CDHE will revise the report based on Council feedback, continue discussions with the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee, and return an updated version to the Council for further review before finalizing the report and sharing it with broader stakeholders.

- **GT Pathways Credit Hour Differential Analysis**

Council members reviewed its annual analysis of GT Pathways credit-hour differentials, which identified the greatest variation in world languages, mathematics, and laboratory science courses. Members noted that these differences largely reflect intentional instructional and curricular design decisions rather than transfer barriers and expressed concern that terms such as "misalignment" and "credit loss" may inaccurately characterize the issue. Discussion emphasized the importance of distinguishing instructional variation from actual transfer problems, particularly since students generally retain

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earned credits even when courses apply differently within degree requirements. Members also highlighted the role of disciplinary traditions, faculty governance, and institutional mission in shaping credit-hour structures. Rather than pursuing statewide standardization, participants generally favored additional analysis, clearer reporting language, continued transparency for students and advisors, and potential faculty-to-faculty conversations to better understand the rationale for variations in specific disciplines. CDHE will revise the draft report based on Council feedback and return it for additional review prior to forwarding recommendations to the Commission.

8. Ongoing discussion of GE Council reporting for [C.R.S. 23-1-108.5](#)

Council members continued its annual discussion of reporting responsibilities required under C.R.S. 23-1-108.5, including review of the Statewide Transfer Degrees Outcomes Report and the GT Pathways Credit-Hour Differential Analysis. Members reviewed draft findings showing strong student outcomes associated with STAAs/DwDs, including higher transfer rates, stronger bachelor's degree completion outcomes, improved alignment with students' intended fields of study, and reduced accumulation of excess credits. Council members also discussed interpretation of GT Pathways credit-hour differential data and emphasized the importance of distinguishing legitimate transfer barriers from instructional and curricular differences across institutions. Members recommended refining report language, providing additional context regarding disciplinary practices and transfer outcomes, and avoiding terminology that could inaccurately imply credit loss when students retain earned credit. CDHE will incorporate Council feedback, revise both reports, and return updated versions for additional review before final recommendations are forwarded to the Commission.

9. Review of current institutional reporting requests

- [Supplemental Remedial Education Information](#) – due 8/19
- Implementation of Work-Related Credentials – forthcoming

Council members reviewed current reporting requests being coordinated by CDHE, including information related to supplemental remedial education and implementation of work-related experience credentials. Discussion focused primarily on gathering consistent information from institutions regarding implementation activities, institutional practices, and student participation. Members noted the value of statewide data collection in helping CDHE evaluate implementation progress and identify opportunities for greater consistency across institutions. Institutions were encouraged to continue submitting requested information and to communicate any questions or challenges associated with reporting requirements directly to CDHE staff. CDHE will continue collecting and reviewing institutional responses and will use the information to inform future implementation guidance and statewide reporting efforts.

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As part of the Council's annual reporting responsibilities, proposed adding a GT Pathways indicator to the statewide SURDS (Student Unit Records Data System) course enrollment file to improve statewide reporting and analysis capabilities. Members discussed the value of having a consistent mechanism for identifying GT Pathways-enrolled students within statewide data systems and noted the significant analytical opportunities such a marker could create for future transfer and enrollment studies. While implementation would likely require substantial lead time and coordination with statewide data governance processes, members expressed interest in exploring the recommendation further. The proposal will be included in the Council's upcoming voting materials for consideration as a formal recommendation to the Commission.

10. Transfer initiatives updates

- Higher Education Transfer Audit
- CCHE Transfer Subcommittee
- Policy revision update and next steps
 - Review of [Prior Learning Assessment \(PLA\)](#) policy proposed revisions

Brad provided an update on implementation of the statewide higher education transfer audit recommendations and the ongoing work of the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee. He reported that CDHE anticipates completing all audit recommendations by the required deadline, including policy revisions, reporting enhancements, military-affiliated student data collection improvements, and resolution of audit-related student cases. Members were informed that both the GT Pathways and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) policy revisions are [currently available for public comment](#). Feedback received to date has focused significantly on provisions related to transfer-credit portability, documentation requirements, and recognition of qualifying prior learning and military learning experiences. The Council reviewed key elements of the proposed policy changes and discussed their potential operational impact on institutions. Members were encouraged to review the draft policies in detail, share the materials broadly with campus stakeholders, and submit formal comments before the close of the public comment period. Feedback received through the review process will be considered by the Transfer Subcommittee before final recommendations are presented to the Commission for approval.

11. [Postsecondary Talent Development System Transition Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#) updates

Brad provided a brief update on the work of the TAC, which continues to meet regularly to examine the potential future alignment of higher education and workforce development functions. Recent meetings have focused on reviewing state agency functions, distinguishing responsibilities that must remain within existing structures

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from those that may be suitable for reorganization or consolidation. Members were encouraged to monitor TAC meeting materials and recordings and to remain engaged as recommendations continue to develop. Brad noted that the committee's final recommendations will be delivered later this year and that any resulting structural changes would require future legislative action. CDHE will continue providing updates to the Council as TAC's work progresses.

12. Institutional transfer share-outs (issues, opportunities, questions)

The Council continued its discussion of institutional transfer issues and opportunities through the transfer share-out agenda item. Members were encouraged to utilize GE Council representatives as institutional points of contact for transfer concerns and suggested that recurring transfer issues be elevated to the Council for collaborative discussion before escalating through other channels. Members also discussed broader questions related to transfer credit evaluation, course substitutions, waivers, excess credits, and institutional practices for balancing flexibility in accepting transfer credit with preservation of curricular integrity. Several participants expressed interest in future discussions focused on sharing institutional practices and exploring statewide approaches to addressing credit applicability challenges. Council members were encouraged to continue bringing transfer-related concerns and emerging issues forward for discussion at future meetings.

13. Consider action to recommend Colorado Commission on Higher Education approval of new and closed GT Pathways courses (*Note: **Bold yellow** indicates courses which may require further evaluation of alignment with proposed category.*)

- New
 - GT-CO1: ENG 125 Professional Writing I (3) – Colorado State University Global Campus (CSUG)
 - GT-CO2: ENG 135 Professional Writing II (3) – CSUG
 - GT-SS2: GEO 2009 Social Geography of Inequality (3) – Colorado Community College System (CCCS)
 - GT-SS2: SUS 2500 Permaculture Design I (3) – CCCS
 - GT-SS2: SUS 2510 Permaculture Design II (3) – CCCS
- Closed (Withdrawn from GTP but may still be offered at IHE)
 - None
- Closed (No longer offered at IHE)
 - None

ACTION ITEMS

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Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned
Vote on Proposed Items	Complete August 2026 GE Council Voting Form (voting representatives only)	To be completed by Monday, August 17, 2026

