

Earning a Decent Living

- Every dollar invested in college education returns about \$16.50 back in the form of higher earnings.
- 12% more third-graders earned proficient or advanced reading scores in counties where more adults are enrolled in college.

Access to Adult Education

- Colorado is one of only 2 states in the nation that don't provide funding for Adult Basic Education/ Literacy.
- From 2000 to 2004, Colorado's grade dropped from B- to D- on affordability of higher education for state residents.

Children tended to have an edge on every gateway to opportunity in counties where adults were more likely to have finished high school themselves.


In 2002, the Bell Policy Center identified 8 Gateways to Opportunity that enable Colorado residents to reach their full economic, social, and personal potential. The same Gateways enable students to achieve high academic standards.

A Healthy Birth

- Funding for the Colorado Prenatal Care Program is set to increase from \$6 million to \$19 million from 2003 to 2009.
- In counties where women were more likely to receive prenatal care, 11% more third-graders achieved proficient or advanced CSAP reading scores.

Ready for School

- Studies show that for every dollar invested in preschool education from \$4-7 dollars is returned to the community.
- Colorado ranks 19th in the country with 49.8% of children ages three and four enrolled in preschool.
- Counties with more three and four year-olds enrolled in preschool have 10% more children earning proficient or advanced scores on third grade reading tests.



For the full report, Gateways to Achievement: A County-Level Perspective on Adult Educational Attainment, the Cycle of Opportunity, and Their Impact on Academic Achievement, visit the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative website:<http://www.literacyresearch.org/>

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A Healthy Childhood

- In 2001, almost half of Colorado high school students did not participate in physical education classes. Colorado is one of only two states in the nation that do not require physical education.
- Counties with fewer obese children have 8% more third-graders excelling reading.

Quotable Facts About Gateways to Achievement



Leaving High School with a Diploma

- Colorado is ranked 7th in the nation for number of high school dropouts. 44 states in the union have a lower high school dropout rate than Colorado, including Kentucky, Arkansas, and Alabama.
 - Counties in which fewer students graduate from high school are twice as likely to have third-graders with unsatisfactory CSAP reading scores.
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