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**Public Policy Committee  
Pillar Position Statement**

**Date:** Jan. 1, 2024

**Issue:** Education & Talent Pipeline

**Position:**

Public policies and investments that increase access to workforce preparedness for our young people are critical parts of a resilient and sustainable local economy and a thriving community.

Strategy 1: Promote workforce preparedness opportunities.

- a. Advocate and help facilitate access to work-based learning programs for 9th - 12th graders across the county.
- b. Organize and educate the employers of Chaffee County in the benefits of, and how to implement, work-based learning programs for high schoolers and young adults.
- c. Support concurrent enrollment partnerships between the local school districts and institutions of higher education.

Strategy 2: Promote STEAM & data-driven curricula.

- a. Advocate for increasing funding, number of teachers, and number of options for K-12 students in Chaffee to access STEAM learning.
- b. Advocate that curricula choices are evidence-based and that teacher training on new curricula is widely and easily available.

**Rationale:**

Our K-12 education system is literally producing the leaders and workforce for our local and state-wide economy. As such we must invest in both data-driven approaches to education in general as well as work-based learning programs that actively prepare our youth to enter the workforce.

**Background:**

Chaffee EDC has a rich history of investing in the talent pipeline of Chaffee County. As an organization we have focused on relationship building in the last few years to create a foundation for Work Based Learning in Chaffee County.

## **Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation**

339 E Highway 50, Suite 103  
Salida, Colorado 81201  
Phone: 719-239-2018

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First, this has taken the form of advocating for, then supporting, Colorado Mountain College (CMC) and higher education partnerships within the school districts. We supported CMC's bid to have the Salida School District join their special taxing district and even before that by assisting the Town of Buena Vista attract federal REDI dollars for the construction of a CMC campus.

### **Dig in Deeper:**

Learn more about current local education and talent pipeline work by exploring these resources.

- General
  - [2023 Colorado Mountain College Concurrent Enrollment](#)
  - [Colorado Workforce Development Council\\_ Work Based Learning](#)
  - [Colorado Department of Education Resources](#)