

# The Greeley Tribune

## Report: Colorado schools failing to close achievement gap

February 11, 2007

By Staff Reports

To see more on the report, go to [www.reportcardcolorado.com](http://www.reportcardcolorado.com)

Colorado has an unsatisfactory Latino graduation rate and isn't closing the achievement gap between white students and other ethnic groups, according to the State Accountability Report released today

The report is based on data from the 2005-06 school year and includes comparisons to the first State Accountability Report based on 2004-05 data. It is produced by the Donnell-Kay Foundation, the Colorado Children's Campaign, Piton Foundation and the Center for Education Policy Analysis at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Colorado ranks 42nd in the nation in Latino graduation rates. The state's overall graduation rate ranks 25th, an "average" designation. Black students' graduation rate ranks 28th nationally, also average.

Also "unsatisfactory" in the report are Colorado's level of funding for higher education and college enrollment rates for minorities -- both ranking 48th in the nation.

The only categories in which Colorado ranked excellent were population of adults with college degrees and school climate -- both second in the nation. The state's wealth ranks "high" at 14th.

But where the nation most measures progress in education systems -- the closure of the achievement gaps -- Colorado ranks low and average. While the state's students are trending upward in proficient and advanced levels in the Colorado Student Assessment Program tests, the gap between ethnic groups isn't closing.

The performance gap by income ranks 38th (low); the gap between white and Hispanic students ranks 39th (low); and the gap between white and black students ranks 21st (average).

"The data in this report clearly shows that in terms of our education system, Colorado can and should do better," said Megan Ferland, president of the Colorado Children's Campaign. "Our state and our students should expect an education system that is higher than 'average' or 'unsatisfactory.' In fact, we should settle for nothing less than 'excellent.' "

*Copyright 2007. The Greeley Tribune. All Rights Reserved.*