

The Colorado Department of Corrections Education Equity Statement

The Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) is committed to identifying and ensuring equitable processes, resources, and access to postsecondary education opportunities for all individuals who are incarcerated and formerly incarcerated regardless of sentence and/or identity.

We acknowledge that access to higher education is not a privilege but rather a necessity for the educational advancement of people who are currently and formerly incarcerated. Educational disparities have and continue to impact minoritized groups (i.e., Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, gender identity); thus, we are specifically committed to addressing disparities to support equitable educational advancement and success for these groups.

It is within this context that the CDOC defines equity as creating access to higher education programs and opportunities necessary to support advancement and success of all incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, especially those who have been historically excluded from these opportunities.

To create equitable opportunities, we focus on the following actions:

- Actively work to understand the barriers to participation and access across different identities
- Eliminate barriers to access to higher education for all incarcerated individuals
- Ensure that minoritized groups have access to participation in educational opportunities
- Create physical access to resources and educational spaces

In all support of equitable education programs, the CDOC is accountable for identifying and eliminating all structural and institutional barriers to access in higher education in order to provide equitable opportunities that lead to a successful educational journey for all people who are incarcerated.