

LEWIS-PALMER HIGH

GRADS TIE FOR LEAST REMEDIAL NEEDS

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The 2009 graduates of Lewis-Palmer High School who went on to college were better prepared than most of their peers, according to a report by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

The school's graduates were tied for first place for having the lowest remediation rate in the state among traditional high schools, the report said.

About 11 percent of the 246 graduates who went on to attend state public

— colleges needed remediation. Fairview High School, a Boulder Valley School District school with 227 students, also had an 11 percent rate.

“We are just thrilled. It speaks to the quality of our teachers and the great work going on to make sure the students are prepared,” said Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Superintendent Ted Bauman.

Remediation rates are a national concern because so many students graduate high school without the reading, writing and math skills to do college work or enter the workplace. The figures in the report refer to the percentage of students who, in at least one subject, did not have the basic skills they needed for college-level work and therefore had to take high school level make-up classes when they got to college.

Nationally, remediation rates have increased over the past decade. At two-year public institutions, 44 percent needed remediation in 2007, compared with 39 percent in 1995. The numbers at four-year public colleges were 30 percent in 2007 and 27 percent in 1995.

Colorado's numbers are better. Overall, 28.6 percent of students attending public colleges in the state needed at least one remedial classes.

However, the state's rate for two-year colleges is 52.8 percent — well above the national average — while the rate for four-year schools, at 18.3 percent, is well below the national average.

Two other Pikes Peak region schools, Cheyenne Mountain High School and The Classical Academy, also got high marks in the state report. They were among five school in the state with remediation rates below 15 percent for more than one year.

When students go to college unprepared, it becomes a big expense for them, said Marie Revak, D-38 director of assessment. Students must pay college tuition for the classes that they should have mastered in high school. The cost for remedial education in Colorado was about \$19 million in fiscal year 2010, according to the report.

“They sometimes have to take three or more classes before they can even start on the college courses,” Revak said.

Lewis-Palmer ranked fourth among all high schools, including charters and other specialty schools.

The Classical Academy, a charter school in Academy School District 20, ranked second statewide, with 7.1 percent of its 56 graduates needing remediation.

Cheyenne Mountain High School's 193 graduates were eighth, with a 14.5 percent rate.

The top school in the state was D'Evelyn Senior High School, a college-prep option school in Jefferson County School District R-1. None of its 94 graduates needed remediation in college.

Here are some other statistics cited in the fiscal year 2010 report, which looked at students entering college in fall 2009:

* Of those attending twoyear in-state public colleges, 41 percent needed remediation in math; 27.3 percent in reading; and 36.5 percent in writing. The total of those needing some form of remediation was 52.8 percent.

* Of those attending fouryear public colleges in Colorado: 14.5 percent needed remediation in math; 5.4 percent in reading; and 8.5 percent in writing. The total number of students needing some form of remediation was 18.3 percent.