

Dear (School District),

We hope you are well and enjoying a wonderful start to April. We realize things are speeding up as we approach the end of the school year.

This email is to introduce a new pilot program for Direct Admission available immediately through the Office of Admissions at Adams State University. This program is specifically designed for our San Luis Valley school districts, and we have been in the planning process for many months. We recently received long-awaited approvals from the Colorado Department of Higher Education, and we would like to introduce the program that your school district may choose to opt-in.

What is Direct Admission?

The idea of the Direct Admission pilot program is to provide the opportunity for graduating high school seniors to access higher education opportunities that we have available at Adams State University. Recent studies have shown that young adults, especially those from first-generation and low-income backgrounds, may not complete a college application that is too long or that has unfamiliar requirements. Additionally, the state recently released information indicating as many as 29% of our college-going high school graduates were planning to pursue their education out-of-state. If the application is a barrier for some students, the Direct Admission process will take that problem out of the admissions equation! There are many “flavors” of Direct Admission in other states and at other higher education institutions, but Adams State University is the first to implement a Direct Admission program in the state of Colorado!

What is Adams State University asking the SLV School Districts to do?

Adams State University is committed to providing accessible and affordable higher education opportunities for all. We recently redeveloped our Promise Scholarship and SLV VIP Scholarship to be more competitive with industry market standards.

At this stage in the year, we do realize that many students have already achieved an admission decision and many more have already started the application and admission process. While many of your students may already be committed to their campus of choice, we would like to request Directory Information, as defined and protected by FERPA law, from your school district in order to give them an opportunity to access an application-less admission opportunity.

Would you please consider this request, and, if your school district wishes to opt-in to this Direct Admission pilot program, reply to this email to confirm your participation by April 12th? We will provide access to a secure space with documents requesting directory information so that we are not sharing sensitive information over email exchange. I have attached a template of the requested information to this email as an example. If needed, we can draft an authorization request form or notice if you need any additional approvals from your

students and families to be able to release this information. Safety and security are top priorities within this process.

What do Direct Admission students get?

Graduating students listed from School Districts who “opt-in” to the Direct Admission pilot program will receive an extra-special Future Grizzly packet from Adams State University, filled with unique Swag and information regarding their special financial perks like the Adams Promise, SLV VIP, and Opportunity Next Colorado scholarships. (Even if they already went through the traditional application process.) We truly want to roll out the red carpet for our San Luis Valley community members, and President Tandberg is genuinely excited to provide this pilot program as well as recognizing the continuation of our campus partnerships.

We are happy to help answer any questions you may have about Direct Admission and to help spread the word to our SLV families for this unique opportunity. Please let us know if you have any questions or need any additional documentation from us.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to assisting with the next steps in the process.

Kind regards,
Kara Gaffney
Director of Admissions