

Title: Legal Authority, District Boundaries and Service Area	Number: 1.2	Page 1 of 2
	Related Procedure? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Legal Citation (if Applicable) C.R.S. § 23-71-101; C.R.S. § 23-71-120; C.R.S. § 23-71-102(1); C.R.S. § 23-71-133; C.R.S. § 23-1-109(2); C.R.S. § 23-71-122(2)	Board Approval/Revision: 19 February 2014 Revised 15 May 2017	

1. Colorado Mountain College (CMC) is a public junior college district that is organized and exists under the Junior College Organization Act of the State of Colorado, Title 23, Article 71 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S. § 23-71-101 *et seq.*). The full legal name of the College is “Colorado Mountain Junior College District” (C.R.S. § 23-71-120). The College may also be referred to as “Colorado Mountain College,” “CMC,” “the College,” or “the District.”
2. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, a body corporate under Colorado law, which may hold property and be a party to suits and contracts, the same as municipal corporations in Colorado (C.R.S. § 23-71-120).
3. A “junior college” is defined as follows by C.R.S. § 23-71-102(1):
 - 3.1 A “junior college” is an educational institution that provides not more than two years of training in the arts, sciences, and humanities beyond the twelfth grade of the public high school curriculum or vocational education and that conducts occupational, technical, and community service programs, with no term limitations, and general education, including college transfer programs, with unrestricted admissions.
 - 3.2 Colorado Mountain College, in addition to its mission as a junior college, may also offer no more than five baccalaureate degree programs as its board of trustees determines appropriate to address the needs of the communities within its service area, and that are approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). (See also C.R.S. § 23-71-133.)
4. District Boundaries:
 - 4.1 The CMC District encompasses all or part of six counties in western Colorado: Lake, Summit, Pitkin, Garfield, Eagle, and Routt. Colorado Mountain College was originally established by election in 1965, and consisted of the following school districts: R-1 of Lake County; RE-1 of Summit County; No. 1 of Pitkin County; No. 16 of Garfield County; RE-1 of Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin counties; RE-2 of Garfield County; No. 50 of Eagle, Garfield, and Routt counties. In 1981, voters approved the addition of school district RE-2 in Routt County to the CMC District.
 - 4.2 Eligible electors who reside within the District boundaries are eligible to vote in CMC elections. CMC levies real property taxes within its District boundaries. Students who reside within the CMC District are eligible for in-district tuition.

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5. Service Areas:

5.1 In addition, CMC provides higher education service in certain service areas outside the territorial limits of its District, in Chaffee, Grand, and Jackson counties.

5.2 CMC’s service areas are established by authority of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (“CCHE”), pursuant to C.R.S. § 23-1-109(2). CCHE policy states as follows: “Colorado Mountain College serves Garfield, Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, Lake, Chaffee, Grand and Jackson counties and Routt County school district RE 2. (The section of Routt County school district RE 3 that extends into Eagle County is within the service area of Colorado Northwestern Community College). The College’s service area for vocational programs is the same.” If CCHE changes these service areas, CCHE’s revised service area definitions shall control.

5.3 It is the policy of the CMC Board that the College will not conduct operations outside its District boundaries without prior approval of the Board, in its sole discretion, after thorough consideration of the costs, benefits, and feasibility of any such proposed operations. The Board may establish requirements for financial and educational operations in such areas.

5.4 Eligible electors who reside in CMC’s service areas, but outside the District boundaries, are not eligible to vote in CMC elections. CMC does not levy real property taxes outside of District boundaries. Students who reside in CMC’s service areas, but outside the CMC District, are not eligible for in-district tuition, but are eligible for in-state tuition.

5.5 CMC is not authorized to expend proceeds from the sale of general obligation or revenue bonds issued by the District to procure or erect schools or other buildings beyond the territorial limits of the District. C.R.S. § 23-71-122(2). Board approval shall be required prior to any such expenditure outside the territorial limits of the District, and proceeds from the sale of bonds will not be used for such purposes.

6. Additions to the District – Procedure. If any school district or group of school districts adjacent to the CMC District or in the CMC service area, as designated by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education desires to be annexed to the CMC District, it may do so by the procedures set forth in C.R.S. § 23-71-128. Annexation requires approval of voters in both the existing CMC District, and in each of the school districts desiring to be annexed into the CMC District.