

DISCLAIMER

May 03, 2024

This document is a working draft of the 2024-25 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide and is provided for reference purposes only. The guidance contained in this draft is subject to change at any time and cannot be considered final.

The intent of this document is to provide districts, schools and BOCES the opportunity to provide feedback ahead of the release of the final “official” 2024 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide.

The final, “official” 2024-25 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide will be made available on or about July 1, 2024.

Please email the [School Auditing Office](#) with questions or concerns.



COLORADO

Department of Education

2024 Student October Count

DRAFT Audit Resource Guide

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

For use during the Student October Count data submission and subsequent audit

Submitted to:

Colorado Public School Districts, Charter Schools, Charter School Collaboratives, Charter School Networks, The Charter School Institute (CSI) and Colorado Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)

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This Guide is to be read as a whole, in context, and CDE gives effect to every word of the document. In auditing, CDE is bound to give consistent, harmonious, and sensible effect to all of the parts of the Guide. The Guide is interpreted as harmonized and not read or interpreted as creating a conflict. Individual sections of the Guide provide additional information and definition for specific student, course, school, and program types. These individual sections are not meant to stand alone or to contradict or supersede the general funding requirements of the Guide.

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[Colorado Revised Statutes](http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/colorado/) <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/colorado/>
[Code of Colorado Regulations](http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do) <http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do>



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Disclaimer

On March 14, 2024, the State Board of Education approved changes to the Rules for the Administration of the Public School Finance Act of 1994 (1 CCR 301-39). These amendments update the school finance rules to reflect modern practice and provide flexibility for alternative teacher-pupil instruction for secondary school students.

This Guide is meant to provide clarification and additional information regarding the audit documentation requirements for students funded under the updated rules. There have been substantial changes made to many sections; some individual changes to general guidance or specific sections have not been identified in the same way as previous updates to the Guide. Where changes have been noted, the Delta symbol Δ has been used to indicate a change or clarification.

This guidance will apply to the 2024-2025 school year, and it is important that school, district, and BOCES staff review this entire document to ensure compliance with the new rules.

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Statutory Authority

[Section 22-54-120](#) grants the state board authority to “make reasonable rules and regulations necessary for the administration and enforcement” of the Public School Finance Act of 1994.

The Rules for the Administration of the Public School Finance Act of 1994 are published in 1 CCR 301-39.

For more information on the adopted changes, including the unofficial rules, visit the [Update to the Rules for the Administration of the Public School Finance Act](#) webpage. [Colorado Revised Statutes](#)
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/colorado/>
[Code of Colorado Regulations](#) <http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do>

You must open your browser to “[Colorado Legal Resources](#)” before clicking any link to a statutory reference

Data Privacy and Security

As a reminder, local education agencies must use secure means when sending Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to CDE. CDE strongly recommends that districts use a secure method of transferring PII between districts, schools, or with other parties (for example, a secure file sharing tool like Syncplicity, or including the PII in a password-protected document).

For more information, please visit the [Data Privacy and Security](#) website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/dataprivacyandsecurity> or contact [CDE’s Data Privacy Office](#) at dataprivacy@cde.state.co.us.



Resource Guide Introduction and Overview

The purpose of the 2024 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide (“Guide”) is to:

1. Support the Student October Count data collection and subsequent audit;
2. Summarize state and federal requirements regarding the Student October Count audit process;
3. Summarize the required documents necessary to audit per pupil funding eligibility;
4. Ensure the Student October Count data is audited in a consistent manner; and
5. Provide information and guidance to school districts, the Charter School Institute (CSI), charter schools, charter school collaboratives, charter school networks, and Board(s) of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

While the Guide has been developed to conform to state statute and the Code of Colorado Regulations (Administrative Rules), **this Guide is not meant to be comprehensive and is not intended to replace state statute or administrative rules.**

All references to “district” or “school district” include the Charter School Institute (CSI), charter schools, charter school collaboratives, charter school networks, and BOCES. Each organization is encouraged to review all sections of the Guide, state statute, and administrative rules.

Any references to “days” refer to calendar days.

References to “school days” refer to scheduled student contact days as evidenced by a given district’s, school’s, or program’s adopted calendar.

Throughout this Guide, a student’s “year” of high school is determined using the student’s assigned Anticipated Year of Graduation (AYG).

- The “Anticipated Year of Graduation” (AYG) is the assigned, unchanging, year a student is anticipated to graduate high school based upon the year they enter 9th grade and adding 3 three years. For example, the formula anticipates that a student starting ninth grade in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year will graduate in 2024-2025. For more information, visit the [Student End of Year Snapshot](http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/snap_eoy) website (http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/snap_eoy).

How to Utilize the Guide

Guide Subsections

Within each section of the Guide, there may be subsections meant to assist districts in identifying relevant information. Subsections may include:

- **What is Unique?**
 - Describes how particular student, course, school, instructional model, and program types are different, including:
 - Exceptions to a general funding rule
 - Variation of supporting audit documentation
- **Course/Funding Requirements**
 - Describes the course- and student-level requirements and audit documentation necessary to support funding eligibility
- **▲ Limitations**
 - Describes any pertinent restricts on courses or student funding eligibility
- **Helpful Hints**



-
- **Additional Documentation Requirements**
 - **References**
 - Lists the applicable statutes and administrative rules and additional posted guidance

Updated Information

Throughout this Guide, the Delta symbol Δ is used to identify information that has been updated or clarified since the previous edition of the Guide. Further information about these changes can be found in the [“Summary of Changes”](#) section found at the end of the Guide.

Overview of the Audit Process

Data Collection Overview

Each year all public school districts across the state of Colorado participate in the Student October Count data submission to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). The purpose of this data collection is to obtain required student-level data as provided for by state statute, including information regarding students’ funding eligibility as outlined in the Public School Finance Act of 1994, as amended. The Colorado Department of Education collects data using the Data Pipeline. The Data Services Unit of CDE oversees the collection, which opens in September and closes at the end of November.

For further information regarding the actual data collection process, please visit the [Student October Snapshot](http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/snap_studentoctober) website (http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/snap_studentoctober).

For information regarding available Data Pipeline student-level October Count reports, view the [CEDAR/COGNOS Report Guide](https://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/studentoctoberreportdefinitions) (<https://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/studentoctoberreportdefinitions>).

Audit Overview

In an effort to ensure accurate reporting of data fields associated with total program funding as described in the Public School Finance Act of 1994, the School Auditing Office conducts compliance audits of each district’s Student October Count data, which includes the funded pupil, at-risk, and English Language Learner (ELL) counts.

With the emergence of new technological capabilities, districts should be prepared to provide all audit documentation in electronic format. In most cases, districts should be able to generate and save required reports electronically from their student information system (SIS), or if needed, scan hard copy documents and save them in an electronic format. Districts should be prepared to provide source documentation in addition to any standard reports when requested by an auditor. **Each district shall retain complete documentation supporting any certification made to CDE or any other data given to CDE for purposes of administering the Public School Finance Act of 1994 until audited by CDE, or until five years from the certification due date, whichever comes first.**

In addition to meeting funding requirements for its own students, if a BOCES provides educational services to students on behalf of a district, charter school, or another BOCES, the BOCES must ensure sufficient documentation is kept in order to meet funding requirements for those students as well.

If a district submits students for funding without sufficient documentation to demonstrate funding eligibility, the district must repay the State any funding received for those students, in addition to any applicable interest.



Failure to repay the State for ineligible students may result in future disbursements being withheld. In the event a district did not receive full funding for students to which it is entitled, the State will reimburse the district within 45 days of the final audit report being issued.

Appeals regarding audit findings may be made to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days following the issuance of the final audit report.

At no time should any documentation containing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) be emailed to CDE.

Audit Process for 2024/25

COMING SOON

Syncplicity

CDE uses the secure file-sharing service Syncplicity to transfer documents between the Department and LEAs. The School Auditing Office has created a folder within Syncplicity that has been shared with the applicable district audit contact(s). These main district audit folders contain subfolders: Annual Audit Review, At-Risk Count, Audit Report, Duplicate Count, English Language Learner Count, Pupil Count, Transportation_CDE40, and each of these contains year-specific subfolders.

- The naming convention for the main audit Syncplicity folder is:
 - "District Number_District Name_Audit_FAST"
 - In the event a district contact needs assistance in accessing their Syncplicity folder, please email the [School Auditing Office](mailto:audit@cde.state.co.us) (audit@cde.state.co.us).

For instructions and more information about how to use Syncplicity, please review the School Auditing Office's "[Syncplicity Instructions](#)" document.

In the event of staff turnover, please reach out to the [School Auditing Office](mailto:audit@cde.state.co.us) (audit@cde.state.co.us) to assist in finalizing audits prior to staff departure or when providing training to new staff regarding the audit process.

Reference

1 CCR 301-39(2.02)(1)

1 CCR 301-39(8.01), et seq.

[Section 22-54-103\(9.5\), -103\(10\)\(d\)\(II\), and -103\(10.5\)\(a\)](#)

[1 CCR 301-14](#)



Pupil Enrollment Count Date

The pupil enrollment count date is October 1 of each year, unless that date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or major religious holiday. If the pupil enrollment count date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or major religious holiday, the pupil enrollment count date will be the following weekday.

2024 Pupil Enrollment Count Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Determination of the pupil enrollment count date will not be affected by a district's decision not to have school on the pupil enrollment count date, including districts with a four-day week calendar.

Districts and schools must use the pupil enrollment count date, unless an alternative count date is requested and approved by the Department (as described below). In this guide, the "applicable count date" refers to either the pupil enrollment count date or an approved alternative count date used by a district or school.

Pupil Enrollment Count Period

The applicable 11-day count period ("11-day count period") refers to the five school days before the applicable count date, the applicable count date itself, and the five school days after the applicable count date, as determined by the district's adopted calendar. If the district allows different calendars for individual schools or programs, the 11-day count period for each school is tied to the district's adopted calendar unless the district requests an alternative pupil enrollment count date or pupil enrollment count period. Pupil counts are conducted the same whether the pupil enrollment count date or an alternative count date is used.

For each student, districts must be prepared to provide, at a minimum, attendance records that include the entire 11-day count period. For districts using an alternative count date, the 11-day count period will adjust accordingly.

Districts may never solicit students from other districts (or from the home-school or private school population) for the sole purpose of attending through the pupil enrollment count period.

Alternative Pupil Enrollment Count Date

A district may request an alternative count date for a school or program to allow maximum flexibility in the operation and scheduling of alternative program school calendars and year-round calendars, or for other reasons as authorized in statute.

Throughout this Guide, references to the "applicable pupil enrollment count date" include approved alternative count dates. Further:

- The requested alternative count date cannot be more than 45 school days after the first school day of the applicable school year.
- Districts requesting an alternative count date or 11-day count period (district-wide or school-specific) must complete the "Request for Alternative Count Date" form and email it to the [School Auditing Office](mailto:audit@cde.state.co.us) (audit@cde.state.co.us) no later than September 15.
- During the Duplicate Count process, if a student is submitted by more than one district for funding, a district using the pupil enrollment count date will take precedence over a district using an alternative count date. (See [Appendix B](#) of this Guide for more information regarding the Duplicate Count process.)



Applicable Count Date Helpful Hints

- The deadline for submitting the Student October Count data is no later than November 10. If a district or school is granted an alternative count date after the pupil enrollment count date, the submission deadline remains November 10. Therefore, districts must have processes in place to ensure the deadline is met.
- In the event a school or district is granted an alternative count date, that same date will be used for their official mileage count date as described in the Rules for the Administration of the Public School Transportation Fund (1 CCR 301-14).
- Districts should ensure that all reported data is accurate as of the close of the data submission (November 10). In the event a district identifies issues with their submitted data that impact funded pupil, at-risk, and/or ELL counts, the district may submit a request to amend applicable pupil enrollment count data, with appropriate supporting documentation, until the time of audit.

Reference

Section 22-54-103(9.5), -103(10)(d)(II), and -103(10.5)(a)

1 CCR 301-14

1 CCR 301-39(1.02)

1 CCR 301-39(1.13)

1 CCR 301-39(3.01), et seq.

1 CCR 301-39(4.01), et seq.

SB 21-268



Introduction to General Funding Requirements

In order to be eligible for funding, students must—at a minimum—meet at least three general funding requirements (as of, or during the semester of, the pupil enrollment count date). With limited exceptions, these requirements include:

- 1) enrollment,
- 2) attendance, and
- 3) scheduled instructional time

Students who meet the enrollment and attendance requirements are eligible to be considered for funding. The level at which students are funded (full-time, part-time, or no funding) is determined based upon the number of hours of instruction the student is scheduled to receive in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

On March 14, 2024, the State Board of Education approved changes to the Rules for the Administration of the Public School Finance Act of 1994 (1 CCR 301-39). For more information on the adopted changes, including the unofficial rules, visit the [Update to the Rules for the Administration of the Public School Finance Act](https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do) webpage. [Colorado Revised Statutes](http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/colorado/) [http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/colorado/](http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do)
[Code of Colorado Regulations](http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do) <http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do>

These updates to the Board Rules have, in some instances, resulted in substantial changes to the funding and audit documentation requirements outlined in this Guide.



Enrollment Funding Eligibility

In order for a student to be eligible for funding in the Student October Count data collection, the student must be enrolled with the district and meet the requirements below as of the applicable count date.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Enrolled K-12 students:

- Are enrolled with the district as of the applicable count date
 - Students enrolling after the applicable count date but prior to the end of the 11-day count period may be exempt from this requirement if they have documentation to support a [transfer enrollment exception](#).
- Are at least 5 years old as of October 1, but younger than 21 years of age as of the applicable count date
 - All students in grades K-12 must be at least 5 years old as of October 1 in order to be eligible for funding.
 - This requirement is waived for students who receive services under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and reach age 21 during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.
- Have not met the graduation requirements of the school district (including students who have earned an [HSED](#) but not a diploma) as of the applicable count date. Exceptions to this requirement include:
 - Students who have met the district's minimum graduation requirements but are being retained to participate in the [ASCENT](#), [P-TECH](#), or [TREP](#) programs
 - [Transition students](#) receiving 18- to 21-year-old services as described by an IEP, who have met the district's minimum graduation requirements and have not been issued a diploma
 - Students meeting the district's minimum graduation requirements by the end of the 3rd year of high school may be eligible for part-time or full-time funding during the 4th year of high school, assuming all other requirements for funding are met.
- ▲ Are enrolled in a school that is authorized to serve the students in their respective grades

Documentation:

- The district must be prepared to provide evidence that the student was enrolled with the district as of the applicable count date (unless the student meets the requirements for a transfer enrollment exception), which must include:
 - A student's official registration
 - Entry date of the student
 - For students new to the district, documentation completed on or before the applicable count date by the parent or guardian for the applicable school year
- If applicable, the IEP service delivery page showing services being delivered encompass the applicable count date for any student who is 21 years of age as of the applicable count date
- District graduation requirements
- ▲ For pupils exclusively enrolled in alternative teacher-pupil instruction or any pupil that has a schedule that does not require the pupil's regular physical presence at the public school, the district must verify and document student residency in the State of Colorado upon enrollment and annually thereafter.
 - This does not apply to students who are exclusively enrolled in qualifying post-secondary courses.



Helpful Hints

- Districts should consider reviewing the list of all students being included in the data submission for funding to ensure that each student was actively enrolled as of the applicable count date or, if not, that they have documentation showing students met the requirements for a [transfer enrollment exception](#).
- If a student transfers between districts and attends both districts on the applicable count date, the receiving district is entitled to include the student in their funded pupil count with applicable supporting documentation evidencing that all funding requirements (enrollment, attendance, and scheduled hours) were met. Refer to [Appendix B](#) of this Guide for more information.

Reference

[Section 22-54-103\(10\)\(a\)\(I\).](#)

[HB20-1418](#)

1 CCR 301-39 (1.15)

1 CCR 301-39 (5.01), et seq.

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Attendance Funding Eligibility

In addition to being enrolled with the district, students must also meet the attendance requirements in the district (or educational program with which the district has contracted to provide instructional services) in order to be considered for funding.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

- Student is present for all, or any portion of, the applicable count date (in any scheduled class),
OR
- If the student is absent or does not attend for any reason on the applicable count date (including non-student contact days), then the student:
 - Must establish attendance in any scheduled course, during the current school year, prior to the applicable count date **AND**
 - Resume attendance, in any scheduled course, within 30 days following the applicable count date.
 - This assumes the student did not withdraw or transfer from the district between the applicable count date and the date in which attendance was resumed.

Exceptions:

Post-secondary Courses

- Attendance verification is not required for any post-secondary courses offered through an approved program or school (ASCENT, Concurrent Enrollment, Dropout Recovery programs, Early Colleges, ILOP, P-TECH, or TREP).
- If a student is taking only postsecondary courses through one of the above-noted schools or programs, attendance documentation is not required from the Institution of Higher Education (IHE).
- If a student is taking both postsecondary and non-postsecondary courses, the student must still meet the attendance requirements for the non-postsecondary courses.

Alternative Instruction Courses:

- If a student is enrolled **exclusively** in [alternative instruction](#) courses, the following are the **only** acceptable evidence of attendance:
 - Evidence of attendance in direct instruction content
 - Logins into course content for digitally-delivered instruction
 - For work-based learning courses, documentation from an employer (e.g., timesheets, paystubs) that lists a student's name and dates worked
- For Independent Study courses, districts may submit a "Request for Alternative Attendance Documentation" to the School Auditing Office by September 15.

Documentation:

- Daily attendance summary for a minimum of the [11-day count period](#)
 - Evidence of attendance in direct instruction content
 - Logins into course content for digitally-delivered instruction
 - For work-based learning courses, documentation from an employer (e.g., timesheets, paystubs) that lists a student's name and dates worked
- Detailed daily period attendance from the start of the current school year through the month of October for those students who did not meet the attendance criteria during the 11-day count period



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- For brick-and-mortar students scheduled into courses using [alternative education](#), students being educated through a [contractual agreement](#), and/or district students whose daily attendance may not be tracked in the student information system, the district must be prepared to provide appropriate attendance verification.

Helpful Hints

- Non-student contact days will be considered non-attendance days.
- Excused absences are not considered evidence of attendance.

Reference

[Section 22-54-103\(10\)\(a\)\(I\).](#)

[SB 19-176 page 15](#)

1 CCR 301-39(5.01), et seq.

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Scheduled Instructional Time Funding Eligibility

Introduction

Once it is determined that a student is eligible to be considered for funding (i.e., the student meets both the enrollment and attendance criteria), the district must determine the level of funding at which the student is eligible: full-time; part-time; or not eligible. A student's funding level is determined by the student's scheduled instructional time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date. To receive funding, a district must provide evidence supporting a student's scheduled instructional time.

To be considered eligible for full-time funding, a student's schedule must provide for 360 hours of instructional time (as defined in Board Rule) in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date. If the student's schedule provides for less than 360 hours of instructional time, but at least 90 hours of instructional time, the student is eligible to be reported for part-time funding. Some students who are reported for part-time funding must meet additional audit documentation requirements, as described [below](#).

Throughout this guide, "instructional time" for brick-and-mortar students may refer to either [direct](#) or [alternative](#) teacher-pupil instruction. These concepts are discussed in detail in the sections below. The required documentation for demonstrating direct or alternative instructional time may vary based on the specific type of instruction being delivered. (Instructional time equivalencies for Colorado public [Online Schools and Programs](#) are neither direct nor alternative teacher-pupil instruction and are calculated differently.

Note: In this Guide and in Board Rule, "licensed educator" and "licensed teacher" mean a teacher with an active Colorado educator credential. Each local board shall define "supervision of a licensed teacher." In this context, "licensed teacher" may include any educator of record when the district is not required by law to use a licensed teacher.

Direct Teacher-Pupil Instruction

△ "Direct teacher-pupil instruction" is the organized delivery of educational content (aligned to state standards, where applicable) to brick-and-mortar students that takes place synchronously, under the supervision of a licensed teacher. Direct teacher-pupil instruction may be counted as instructional time for all students in grades K-12.

"Synchronous" instruction occurs during scheduled times and includes real-time interactions between pupils in-person, by video, or by phone.

Direct instruction includes instruction that occurs on-site or when students and licensed teachers are in the same virtual classroom. For funding purposes, "on-site" means the physical location where the school or contractor regularly delivers instruction; a "virtual classroom" is an online learning space in which students and licensed teachers interact synchronously as if they were in the same "on-site" location.

Direct instruction includes engagement with educational content that occurs:

- 1) on-site or in a "virtual classroom";
- 2) at a scheduled time during regular school hours;
- 3) for a set amount of time;
- 4) and where attendance is mandatory.

This may include **on-site** study hall, advisory, and independent study courses.



Alternative Teacher-Pupil Instruction

△ “Alternative teacher-pupil instruction” is the organized delivery of educational content (aligned to state standards, where applicable) for brick-and-mortar students that may take place asynchronously, under the supervision of a licensed teacher.

- “Asynchronous” means the delivery of educational content designed to allow the teacher and the pupils to engage with the educational content at different times.

Alternative instruction courses must be **credit-bearing** and are only available to students in grades 6-12, and students receiving homebound services (in any grade). These courses include only:

- [Blended Learning](#)
- [Independent Study](#)
- [Supplemental Online](#)
- [Work-Based Learning Experience](#)

Credit-bearing means that a passing grade and credits are given for satisfactory completion of course requirements within the parameters of the academic calendar.

For funding purposes, alternative instruction courses will be evaluated based on an equivalent amount of instructional time the student would have received if taking a similar credit-bearing direct instruction course offered at the brick-and-mortar school at which the student is enrolled. Whereas direct instruction is funded based on “time in seat,” the instructional time associated with alternative instruction is equal to the time that a pupil would have been “in a seat” if they had taken a similar course in-person and on-site.

Instructional Time Calculations and Restrictions

Semester Calculations

The determination of funding level will be dependent on the student’s scheduled instructional time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date, as evidenced by the student’s individual student schedule, and the corresponding school’s calendar and bell/class schedules (see “[Appendix A: Calendar and Bell Schedule Calculation](#)”). A semester is defined as one-half of the school year; as such, “the semester of the pupil enrollment count date” generally refers to the first or fall semester of a given school year.

△ For calculation purposes, the length of the semester will be determined by dividing the total yearly number of scheduled student contact days (as evidenced by the district/school calendar) by 2. This is true regardless of whether a school follows a semester, trimester, quarter, “hexter,” or mini-session calendar.

Funding Levels

When including students in the Student October Count data submission, districts must identify the corresponding Public School Finance Funding Status (“funding code”) relevant for each student. The available funding codes align with the following funding definitions:

- **Full-Time Funding**
 - Students must have a schedule as of the applicable count date that provides for at least 360 hours of instructional time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.
- **Part-Time Funding**
 - Students must have a schedule as of the applicable count date that provides for at least 90, but less than 360, hours of instructional time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date



- **Not Eligible/No Funding**

- Students meet the enrollment criteria, but may not meet the attendance requirement or may be scheduled, as of the applicable count date, for less than 90 hours of instructional time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

Passing Periods

Passing periods may only be considered in the calculation for full- or part-time funding when a student is passing between two on-site courses, or between an on-site course and lunch.

- Passing periods up to seven minutes may be included in the calculation of full- or part-time funding.
- The following periods **cannot** be considered in the calculation of instructional time:
 - Periods reserved for breakfast
 - Periods reserved for lunch
 - Periods of time between lunch and class
 - Periods between a class and a free period
 - Periods between a free period and a class
 - Periods between an alternative instruction course and an on-site course
 - Periods between an on-site course and an alternative instruction course
- Passing periods between an on-site course evaluated based on college credit hours and an on-site course evaluated based on actual direct instructional time **cannot** be included in the determination of scheduled instructional time.

Restrictions that apply to all instructional time calculations:

- Only time in which a student is expected and required to attend may be considered instructional time. In no instance should optional attendance days or class periods be included in the determination of scheduled instructional time.
- Periods reserved for breakfast or lunch are never considered instructional time.
- Students in grades K through 12 are eligible for a maximum of full-time funding statewide.
- [Home-school students](#) are eligible for a maximum of part-time funding (regardless of the services or instruction being provided).
- [Private school students](#) are eligible for a maximum of part-time funding (regardless of the services or instruction being provided).
- Only teacher-led instruction may be considered as instructional time for funding purposes; **parent-led or parent-directed instruction may not be included in the calculation of instructional time.** This includes time when a parent is instructing or supervising the delivery of educational content.
 - Instructional time for purpose of the Public School Finance Act does not include instructional time based on the district (or its contractor) providing funding directly to families or creating a spending account for the parent to use to design their educational experience. For example, a music class counts as instructional time if it is designed by the district (or its contractor) and delivered by employees of the district (or its contractor) that are subject to the Department's HR data collection; by contrast, a music class does not count as instructional time based on directly or indirectly providing funding to families (e.g., reimbursement or direct order) to pay for a private music instructor off-site.
 - "Parent" includes guardian or other person living in the home with the pupil. Parent does not include an individual who is employed by or contracted with the school or district and is subject to Human Resources data collections.
 - For alternative teacher-pupil instruction courses, the course must be designed by the district or contractor rather than custom built by a parent. [The catalog of courses using alternative](#)



[instruction](#) must include the educational content that will be provided in the course, not what could be provided based on the interests of the parent.

Students Receiving Services Under an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- An IEP must only be provided if the student's general education schedule does not support the level at which the student was reported for funding, or if an IEP is necessary to confirm funding eligibility (as with [Transition](#) students).
- When determining funding level eligibility, the district should look at both the IEP service delivery grid and the individual student schedule. Some IEPs do not include general education or integrated services on the IEP service delivery grid, while others do. Districts should take care not to double-count scheduled instructional time if the general education courses are included on both the individual student schedule and the student's IEP.
- In the event a district has a student whose IEP states that the student would not benefit from a full-time schedule, this language waives the general full-time funding requirement of 360 hours in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date. This statement must be explicit and individualized in describing how the student's disability affects their involvement, progress, and participation in appropriate activities such that the student would not be able to meet the full-time scheduling requirement.

Audit Documentation Requirements

In order to calculate instructional hours for both direct and alternative instruction courses, districts and schools must conduct calendar and bell schedule calculations, as explained in [Appendix A](#). The following documentation must be included to support those calculations.

Documentation:

- Calendars
 - Adopted district calendar, as well as individual school and program calendars
- Bell Schedules
 - **Δ** Must provide all bell schedules used by the school, program, or contracted entity including, but not limited to, "regular" weekly bell schedules (Monday through Friday), early release, late start, finals, etc.
 - Should include:
 - Start and end times for each period for every day of the week
 - Time set aside (start and end times) for breakfast, lunch, and passing periods
- Individual Student Schedules
 - Documentation evidencing individual student schedules as of the applicable count date for all secondary students (usually grades 6-12) and elementary school students being served through a contractual agreement or program.
 - Documentation should reflect all scheduled classes equal to one half of the school year (i.e., semester calendar = first semester schedule, trimesters = first and second trimester schedules, quarters = first and second quarter schedules, hexters = first, second, and third hexter schedules, etc.).
 - Examples of acceptable documentation evidencing student schedules include, but are not limited to:
 - Student schedules generated out of the student information system (SIS) that align with the school's bell schedule
 - Master schedule and student list for students participating in a program in which all students follow the same schedule, etc. For



example, this may include students in grades 6-8 who are attending a “K-8” school or secondary students attending an alternative high school in which they are scheduled to attend a given “session.”

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) service delivery pages
- ▲ For part-time students in grades 1-12 who do not meet one of the following criteria, the district must be prepared to provide a statement describing the reasons the student is enrolled part-time AND confirms how the student is compliant with the Compulsory school attendance requirements:
 - Receiving services under an IEP
 - Identified by the Department as being in their fifth year of high school or beyond
 - Identified as participating in a high-school equivalency diploma program
 - Identified as a home-based education student receiving educational services by the district
- Student handbook for each high school, if available
- District or school course catalog(s) (if requested at the time of audit)

Additional Documentation for Schedules Which Include Alternative Instruction:

- ▲ Catalog of Courses Using Alternative Instruction

Helpful Hints

- A student who is enrolled in 90 hours of instructional time at one district school and 90 hours of instructional time at another school within the same district is NOT considered to be a full-time student. A student must be scheduled for a minimum of 360 total hours of instructional time within the district in order to be considered full-time.
- Districts should generate electronic copies of all required student schedules on or about the applicable count date in order to ensure funding level is determined by the student’s schedule as of that date.
- Districts should review all student schedules to ensure that they completely and accurately represent the classes into which each student is enrolled and attending as of the applicable count date.

Reference

[Section 22-32-109.](#)

[Section 22-54-103\(10\)\(e.5\).](#)

1 CCR 301-39(1.01), et seq.

1 CCR 301-39(2.05), et seq.

1 CCR 301-39(5.05), et seq.



Unique Students, Courses, Schools, and Programs

As described in the preceding general funding requirements sections, students may be considered for funding if they meet the enrollment and attendance requirements. The level of funding for eligible students is determined based on the teacher-pupil instruction time they are scheduled to receive during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

In some cases, the way in which instruction is being provided may impact the general funding requirements or the ways in which districts are able to document that these requirements have been met. In other circumstances, additional criteria must be met in order for the student to be eligible for funding.

The following sections of the Guide address unique funding and audit documentation requirements for:

- Alternative Teacher-Pupil Instruction Courses
- Post-secondary Courses and Programs
- Unique Schools and Programs
- Unique Student Types

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Alternative Teacher-Pupil Instruction Courses

△ Alternative Teacher-Pupil Instruction is defined as “the organized delivery of educational content (aligned to state standards where applicable) for pupils enrolled in a **brick-and-mortar public school** under the supervision of a licensed educator that may take place asynchronously. The following types of courses with alternative teacher-pupil instruction can be funded with appropriate documentation: independent study, work-based learning (work-study, internships, apprenticeships), blended learning, and supplemental online learning.”

[Direct](#) and [alternative](#) teacher-pupil instruction are evaluated at the [course](#) level. Both direct and alternative instruction courses are delivered under the supervision of a licensed teacher; all alternative instruction (and most direct instruction) courses must be credit-bearing. Direct instruction courses must take place synchronously, in the same “place” (whether brick-and-mortar or a virtual classroom), while alternative instruction courses do not have these requirements. In alternative instruction courses, some portion of the course will take place off-site (i.e., in a different location from the teacher).

A course can either be classified as offering 100% direct instruction, or alternative instruction, but not both. If a course includes any element of off-site, asynchronous instruction, it must be classified as alternative instruction. (Note: “off-site” does not include virtual, synchronous classrooms; instruction in this environment is considered direct.)

Only the following types of courses, as defined in State Board Rule, may be considered alternative instruction for funding purposes:

- Blended Learning
- Independent Study
- Supplemental Online
- Work-Based Learning

In order to include courses featuring alternative instruction as instructional time in the calculations to determine funding level, the district must publish a catalog of courses that includes, at a minimum:

- The title of each course to be considered alternative instruction
- A description of each of the courses
- The course provider (if applicable) for each alternative instruction course
 - Course provider refers to the entity that creates (and, if applicable, from whom the district or school purchases) the digital course content for Blended Learning and Supplemental Online courses. If the district is purchasing digital course content from a third-party course content provider (such as CDLS, Edmentum, Edgenuity, etc.), the district must indicate this in their catalog of courses using alternative instruction. Further, the district must be prepared to provide evidence of payment for these courses (as applicable). If the district or school uses digital course content created by district or school staff for these course types, this should also be stated in the catalog.
- The number of credits earned by completing an alternative instruction course

A catalog of courses using alternative instruction must be published to the school, district, or BOCES website by the applicable count date. Any courses that are not included in this catalog will not be considered for funding purposes.

For all alternative instruction courses, the instructional time that may be included in calculating a student’s funding level will be evaluated based upon the amount of instructional time a student would receive if taking a



similar credit-bearing course (i.e., offering the same number of credits) in a 100% direct instruction course offered at the same school.

For Independent Study courses, the district may request (and receive approval to use) alternative attendance documentation by submitting a “Request for Alternative Attendance Documentation” form. Otherwise, attendance for all other courses using alternative instruction should be demonstrated using [acceptable attendance documentation](#).

[Passing periods](#) into and leaving alternative instruction courses may never be included in the determination of funding level, even if some portion of the course meets the definition of direct instruction (e.g., the on-site portion of a blended learning course).

△ Any student whose schedule does not require regular on-site attendance at the public school (including those who are taking alternative instruction courses) must verify and document Colorado residency at the time of enrollment and annually thereafter.

Additional limitations and documentation requirements are discussed in the following sections.

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Blended Learning Courses

Reminder: This guidance only applies to Blended Learning courses offered to students who are “primarily” enrolled in a traditional, brick-and-mortar school (i.e., those whose reported Student October Count funding codes are 80, 82, 85, or 86).

This guidance does not apply to students who are “primarily” enrolled in a Colorado public [Online School or Program](#) (i.e., those whose reported Student October Count funding codes are 91, 92, 94, 95, or 96).

What is Unique?

Δ “Blended Learning” courses are credit-bearing courses for a student enrolled in a traditional brick-and-mortar school (those with funding codes 80, 82, 85, or 86) in which some of the instruction is regularly received in-person and on-site (i.e., direct instruction) and some of the **digitally-delivered** asynchronous instruction is received off-site (with some element of student control over the time and place of participation).

Unless a course is being offered through a Colorado public Online School or Program, only courses that require both in-person AND digitally-delivered instruction are considered “blended learning” courses.

- Courses that are offered 100% on-site (synchronously, in the same physical or virtual location) are not considered blended learning courses.
- Courses offered through brick-and-mortar schools that are conducted 100% digitally, off-site (not including virtual, synchronous classrooms) are considered “[supplemental online](#)” courses.
- Courses offered to students enrolled in brick-and-mortar schools, through Colorado public [Online Schools and Programs](#), will be evaluated as “[supplemental online](#)” courses.

Course Requirements

Blended Learning courses must meet the following requirements in order to be considered in the determination for funding:

- 1) The course must be included in the district’s catalog of courses using alternative instruction.
- 2) The course must be credit-bearing.
- 3) The course must include both direct and digitally-delivered instruction.
- 4) If the district intends to use Student Information System reports to evidence attendance in the direct instruction portion of a course, the course must occupy a unique position on a student’s schedule.

Limitations

- When determining funding level eligibility, there are no limits on the number of Blended Learning courses that may be included in instructional time calculations.

Determining an Equivalency

The instructional time for Blended Learning courses will be determined based on an equivalent amount of instructional time the student would have received if taking a similar credit-bearing direct instruction course offered at the brick-and-mortar school at which the student is enrolled. See [Appendix A](#) for more information.



Additional Course Documentation Requirements

In addition to documentation demonstrating the [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduled hours](#) requirements for funding have been met, to include a Blended Learning course in the determination of funding level, the following documentation must also be provided at the time of audit:

- A catalog of courses using alternative instruction that includes the title of each course, a description of each course, the content provider (if applicable) for each course, and the number of credits earned for completing the course
- Schedule documentation which clearly indicates the days and times in which a student is receiving direct instruction
- If the district is purchasing digital course content for Blended Learning courses from a third-party course content provider (such as CDLS, Edmentum, Edgenuity, etc.), the district must be prepared to provide evidence of payment for these courses (as applicable).
- The district must ensure students participating in Blended Learning courses have the appropriate electronic equipment and resources to participate in the course.

Reference

[Section 22-30.7-105.](#)

[1 CCR 301-71](#)

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/onlinelearning/resources>

[Section 22-5-119.](#)

[1 CCR 301-39\(1.01\)\(2\)](#)



Independent Study Courses

What is Unique?

▲ For the purposes of this section, “Independent Study” courses refer to those courses in which some or all of the course is being completed off-site, independently by the student. They include the provision of content aligned to grade-level standards (where applicable) and are substantially equivalent to a traditional course. Independent Study courses must follow a written learning plan that includes a curriculum, course outline, or plan for study, the materials to be used, the requirements for submitting assignments and recording academic progress, and the role of the supervising licensed teacher.

For funding purposes, courses that are offered 100% synchronously, in the same physical or virtual classroom, are never considered Independent Study courses; a course offered in this manner would be evaluated as direct instruction.

Independent Study courses differ from [Blended Learning](#) and [Supplemental Online](#) courses as these course types must provide digitally-delivered course content, while Independent Study courses do not have this requirement.

Course Requirements

- 1) The course must be included in the district’s catalog of courses using alternative instruction.
- 2) The course must be credit-bearing.
- 3) Independent Study courses must provide content that is aligned to grade-level standards, and must be substantially equivalent to a traditional course.
- 4) Independent Study courses must have a written learning plan, as described below.

Limitations

- In most circumstances, a student may only include one Independent Study course in the determination of funding level.
 - In the event a student has exhausted the curriculum options at their brick-and-mortar school, this limitation is waived and more than one Independent Study course may be included in the determination of funding level.

Determining an Equivalency

The instructional time for Independent Study courses will be determined based on an equivalent amount of instructional time the student would have received if taking a similar credit-bearing direct instruction course offered at the brick-and-mortar school at which the student is enrolled. See [Appendix A](#) for more information.

Additional Documentation Requirements

In addition to documentation demonstrating the [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduled hours](#) requirements for funding have been met, to include an Independent Study course in the determination of funding level, the following documentation must also be provided at the time of audit:

- A catalog of courses using alternative instruction that includes the title of each course, a description of each course, the content provider (if applicable) for each course, and the number of credits earned for completing the course
- A written learning plan that includes:



-
- the course outline or plan for study;
 - the digital/print curriculum or materials to be used
 - the requirements for submitting assignments and tracking academic progress
 - the role of the supervising teacher
 - △ If an Independent Study course does not require regular on-site attendance at the public school, and if the student is not scheduled into another course that requires regular on-site attendance, proof of Colorado residency will be required.
 - For Independent Study courses, the district may request (and receive approval to use) alternative attendance documentation by submitting a “Request for Alternative Attendance Documentation” form.
 - Documentation demonstrating that the student has exhausted the curriculum options at a brick-and-mortar school (only required if a student is enrolled in more than one Independent Study course to be included in funding level calculations)

Reference

1 CCR 301-39(1.01)(3)

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Supplemental Online Courses

Reminder: This guidance only applies to Supplemental Online courses offered to students who are “primarily” enrolled in a traditional, brick-and-mortar school (i.e., those whose reported Student October Count funding codes are 80, 82, 85, or 86).

This guidance does not apply to students who are “primarily” enrolled in a Colorado public [Online School or Program](#) (i.e., those whose reported Student October Count funding codes are 91, 92, 94, 95, or 96).

What is Unique?

Δ “Supplemental Online” courses are credit-bearing courses taken by students enrolled in traditional, brick-and-mortar schools (those with funding codes 80, 82, 85, or 86) in which all of the instruction is received off-site, digitally (with some element of student control over the time, place, path, and/or pace of participation).

A student enrolled in a brick-and-mortar school cannot be exclusively scheduled into K-12 Supplemental Online courses.

Courses offered through brick-and-mortar schools that are conducted digitally, off-site, and asynchronously are considered “Supplemental Online” courses; this includes courses that are offered by a Colorado public Online School or Program.

- Courses that are attended 100% on-site are never considered Supplemental Online courses (even if the content is delivered digitally).
- Courses that deliver both direct and digitally-delivered instruction are considered “[Blended Learning](#)” courses.
- Courses offered to students enrolled in brick-and-mortar schools, through Colorado public Online Schools and Programs, will be evaluated as “Supplemental Online” courses.

Course Requirements

Supplemental online courses must meet the following requirements in order to be considered in the determination for funding.

- 1) The course must be included in the district’s catalog of courses using alternative instruction.
- 2) The course must be credit-bearing.
- 3) Any asynchronous, off-site instruction must be delivered digitally.

Limitations

- A student who is enrolled exclusively in K-12 online courses (including Supplemental Online courses) cannot be reported at a brick-and-mortar school (i.e., reported with a funding code of 80, 82, 85, or 86). These students must be reported at a Colorado public [Online School or Program](#).

Determining an Equivalency

The instructional time for Supplemental Online courses will be determined based on an equivalent amount of instructional time the student would have received if taking a similar credit-bearing direct instruction course offered at the brick-and-mortar school at which the student is enrolled. See [Appendix A](#) for more information.



Additional Documentation Requirements

In addition to documentation demonstrating the [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduled hours](#) requirements for funding have been met, to include a Supplemental Online course in the determination of funding level, the following documentation must also be provided at the time of audit:

- A catalog of courses using alternative instruction that includes the title of each course, a description of each course, the content provider (if applicable) for each course, and the number of credits earned for completing the course
- Δ If a student taking Supplemental Online courses is not scheduled into another course that requires regular on-site attendance, proof of Colorado residency will be required.
- If the district is purchasing digital course content for Supplemental Online courses from a third-party course content provider (such as CDLS, Edmentum, Edgenuity, etc.), the district must be prepared to provide evidence of payment for these courses (as applicable).
- The district must ensure students participating in Supplemental Online courses have the appropriate electronic equipment and resources to participate in the course.

Reference

[1 CCR 301-71](#)

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/onlinelearning/resources>

[Section 22-5-119.](#)

1 CCR 301-39(1.01)(4)



Work-Based Learning Experience Courses

What is Unique?

▲ “Work-based Learning” courses are credit-bearing courses that must be incorporated within the student’s Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) in order to qualify for funding. These courses are learning opportunities that occur in part or in whole in the workplace and provide the learner with hands-on, real-world experience.

Work-based Learning courses are different from other courses offered at a district school in that students scheduled into these courses may not be “attending” a class in a way that would be reflected on a traditional bell schedule (i.e., the times and days in which students are actively engaged in these courses may vary based on their individual work, apprenticeship, and/or internship schedule). Additional documentation (such as a work-based learning experience [contract](#) between the school and the student) is necessary in order to determine the equivalent instructional time that should be applied to these courses when evaluating individual student schedules for funding level eligibility.

Course Requirements

- 1) The course must be included in the district’s catalog of courses using alternative instruction.
- 2) The course must be credit-bearing.
- 3) The course must be incorporated within the student’s Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).

Determining an Equivalency

The equivalency used in the determination of funding level is based upon the amount of credit the school assigns to each section of Work-Based Learning course into which the student is enrolled. The number of hours worked in a semester is not equivalent to the amount of instructional time that will be considered for funding purposes; instead, districts will have to provide a contract with the student that indicates, for each section of a Work-Based Learning course a student takes, how many [hours](#) the student is expected to work in order to earn a course credit on their transcript. The amount of instructional time for the Work-based Learning course will then be evaluated consistently with direct instruction courses that award the same amount of credit. See [Appendix A](#) for more details.

Limitations

- There are no limits on the number of Work-based Learning courses on a student’s schedule that may be considered instructional time in the determination of funding level.

Additional Documentation Requirements

In addition to documentation demonstrating the [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduled hours](#) requirements for funding have been met, to include a Work-based Learning course in the determination of funding level, the following documentation must also be provided at the time of audit:

- A student’s Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) which incorporates work-based learning opportunities



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- A catalog of courses using alternative instruction that includes the title of each course, a description of each course, the content provider (if applicable) for each course, and the number of credits earned for completing the course
 - Scheduled hours documentation, such as a “work-based learning contract,” evidencing:
 - Student Name and Term (ex. “Fall 2024”)
 - Total number of scheduled hours to be worked by the student during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
 - Actual hours worked during the semester may be substituted if documentation is inadequate to show the number of scheduled hours to be worked.
 - Statement or cross-walk that indicates the number of hours to be worked (for each work-based learning experience, if applicable) in order to earn the equivalent credit hours
 - Note: In the absence of scheduled work hours documentation, the district may provide a copy of a student’s transcript showing credits earned in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date. However, in this circumstance, if the student did not receive credit on their transcript for a Work-based Learning experience course, the course will not be considered in the calculation of instructional time for funding purposes.
 - ▲ If a student taking Work-based Learning courses is not scheduled into another course that requires regular on-site attendance, proof of Colorado residency will be required.

Reference

1 CCR 301-39(1.01)(1)



Post-Secondary Courses and Programs

Overview

For funding purposes, qualifying post-secondary courses are those which are offered through programs or opportunities that are provided for in statute.

Post-secondary courses are offered in cooperation with an accredited college or Institution of Higher Education. The types of post-secondary courses include:

- ASCENT
- Concurrent Enrollment
- Dropout Recovery
- Some Early College courses
- TREP

Qualifying post-secondary courses are evaluated based on semester credit hours, rather than total direct and/or alternative instructional time. In most circumstances, a student taking at least 3 credit hours of qualifying post-secondary courses will be eligible for part-time funding, and a student taking at least 12 credit hours will be eligible for full-time funding.

A student who is taking both high school courses and qualifying post-secondary courses may be considered full time if the student's schedule (in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date) meets the requirements for part-time funding in both environments:

- 90 hours of instructional time in secondary (high school) courses

AND

- 3 or more semester credit hours in qualifying post-secondary courses

In order to include a post-secondary course in the determination of funding level, the course must meet all programmatic requirements (described in the specific sections below). Additionally, the district must provide documentation demonstrating that the district incurred the cost of tuition for any courses included in the determination of funding level.

To report a student scheduled exclusively into post-secondary courses for funding, the district does not need to provide documentation demonstrating that the student met the attendance requirement.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, no qualifying post-secondary course will be evaluated as alternative instruction. As such, for students enrolled exclusively into qualifying post-secondary courses, no proof of Colorado residency will be required.

Reference

1 CCR 301-39(5.10), et seq.



ASCENT (Accelerating Students Through Concurrent Enrollment)

What is Unique?

The Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA) created three district programs: Concurrent Enrollment (CE), Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT), and the Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation (TREP) program. Districts must ensure that both the programmatic and funding requirements are met for the applicable CEPA program when submitting students for funding.

ASCENT is a program which allows students to participate in concurrent enrollment the year after 12th grade only (which has been defined as the fifth year of high school, as determined by a student's AYG). Students meeting the requirements for the ASCENT program have the option of taking college-level courses for which they are earning both high school and college credit or college credit from enrollment in Guarantee Transfer credit courses, a state approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) postsecondary program, or a specific postsecondary degree program pathway including coursework related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs.

The documentation requirements and determination of funding eligibility for ASCENT students vary from traditional students.

Programmatic Requirements

In order for an ASCENT student to be eligible for funding, the district must ensure that the student has met the programmatic requirements as described on CDE's [ASCENT Student Eligibility](http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ascentstudenteligibility) website (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ascentstudenteligibility>):

- The student must be in their 5th year of high school only (as determined by the student's AYG)
- The student has completed, or is on schedule to complete, at least 9 semester credit hours of transcripted, credit-bearing, college-level postsecondary coursework prior to completing their 12th grade year (i.e., the 4th year of high school, as determined by the student's AYG)
 - Developmental education college courses do not qualify as part of the 9 required credit hours.
 - Does not include International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Education Program (CLEP), prior learning, or experiential courses, unless these exams/experiences have been converted to transcripted credits on a college transcript. See the [ASCENT FAQ](https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ascentfaqs) (<https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ascentfaqs>) for Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- ASCENT courses may only be offered by an eligible Institution of Higher Education (IHE), with which the district has entered into a Cooperative Agreement which covers ASCENT courses.
 - To determine if an IHE qualifies to offer ASCENT courses, districts may review the [Concurrent Enrollment Requirements Flowchart](https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ceguidelines_faqs) (https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ceguidelines_faqs)
- Online ASCENT courses will be evaluated based only on semester credit hours, similar to all other ASCENT courses.
- Only those courses for which the district directly paid all tuition costs to the IHE will be considered in the determination of funding level.



Additional Documentation Requirements

- Verification the district paid the student's share of tuition directly to the IHE
- College credit hour verification (from the IHE) in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
- ▲ A college transcript demonstrating the student has completed the minimum college coursework (i.e., at least 9 semester credits) prior to their ASCENT year
- ASCENT Cooperative Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school or district and the Institution of Higher Education

Helpful Hints

- A student's "year" of high school is determined using the student's assigned Anticipated Year of Graduation ([AYG](#)).
- Students receiving [transition services](#) (those between the ages of 18 and 21 who have an IEP that encompasses the applicable count date) are eligible to participate in ASCENT during their 5th year of high school only, provided programmatic requirements have been met.
- Successful completion of ASCENT courses is not necessary for the determination of funding.
- Fall semester courses offered through an IHE which are not "in session" on the applicable count date (i.e., those that begin and end prior to the count date, or those that begin after the count date and end prior to the end of the fall semester) may be included for funding.
 - For courses beginning after the count date and finishing prior to the end of the fall semester, the student must be enrolled and scheduled for the course as of the count date.
 - Only postsecondary courses starting and ending during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date can be included for funding.

Reference

[Section 22-35-101, et seq.](#)

[Section 22-35-103\(12\)](#)

[Section 22-35-104, et seq.](#)

[Section 22-54-103\(5.2\).](#)

[1 CCR 301-86-2.03](#)

http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ce_ascent

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/ta_concurrentenroll

[SB 19-176](#)

[HB 22-1390](#)



Concurrent Enrollment Students

What is Unique?

The Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA) created three district programs: Concurrent Enrollment (CE), Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT), and the Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation (TREP) program. Students meeting the requirements for the CE program have the option of taking college-level courses for which they are earning both high school and college credit. Districts must ensure that both the programmatic and funding requirements are met for the applicable CEPA program when submitting students for funding.

Districts must properly classify the CEPA program to ensure both the programmatic and funding requirements are met.

In the event a student is concurrently enrolled (and not participating in [ASCENT](#) or [TREP](#)), the determination of funding will be dependent on the number of years in which a student has been enrolled in high school (as determined by the student's AYG) and the location in which the Concurrent Enrollment courses are being offered. Depending on the scenario for a given student, documentation requirements and processes used to determine funding eligibility for concurrently enrolled students may vary from a traditional student.

Programmatic Requirements

Only those courses which meet the requirements outlined in CEPA are eligible to be evaluated as Concurrent Enrollment courses, based on the number of credit hours students will receive rather than the course's scheduled instructional time. The chart below provides some general guidance that may be used to assist in determining Concurrent Enrollment eligibility of some common course types; for more information about specific courses or IHEs, please contact the [Office of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness](#).

Course Evaluation		
Type of Course	Is it Concurrent Enrollment?	How will instructional time be evaluated?
Area Vocational Program (AVP) course taken for both high school and college credit	Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated based on credit hours
Area Vocational Program (AVP) course taken for high school credit only	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as contractual education , using scheduled instructional time
Career and Technical Education (CTE) course taken for both high school and college credit	Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as Concurrent Enrollment , based on credit hours
Career and Technical Education (CTE) course taken for high school credit only ("secondary" CTE courses)	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as contractual education , using scheduled instructional time



(continued from previous page)

Type of Course	Is it Concurrent Enrollment?	How will instructional time be evaluated?
Advanced Placement (AP) courses	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated using scheduled instructional time
International Baccalaureate (IB) courses	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated using scheduled instructional time
IHE coursework related to apprenticeship and internship programs	Concurrent Enrollment	With appropriate documentation, may be evaluated as Concurrent Enrollment, based on credit hours
International Salon and Spa Academy (ISSA) courses	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as contractual education , using scheduled instructional time, or under an applicable section of this Guide
Courses that meet <u>all</u> of the statutory requirements for Concurrent Enrollment that are offered online through the IHE	Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as Concurrent Enrollment, based on credit hours
Courses that meet <u>all</u> of the statutory requirements for Concurrent Enrollment that are offered on-site at the high school	Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as Concurrent Enrollment, based on credit hours <u>OR</u> using scheduled instructional time
Courses offered by IHEs that do not maintain a physical location in Colorado	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as contractual education , using scheduled instructional time, or under an applicable section of this Guide
Courses for which the district did not incur the full cost of the student's tuition	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Will not be considered in the evaluation of instructional time for funding purposes
Courses that do not meet all of the statutory requirements for Concurrent Enrollment eligibility	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as contractual education , using scheduled instructional time, or under an applicable section of this Guide
Postsecondary courses offered <u>online</u> that do not meet the requirements for Concurrent Enrollment	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as contractual education , using an equivalency for the scheduled instructional time a student would receive if taking the course on-site at an IHE campus
Any postsecondary course that is taken without an executed Cooperative Agreement for Concurrent Enrollment between the IHE and the LEA.	<u>Not</u> Concurrent Enrollment	Evaluated as contractual education , using scheduled instructional time, or under an applicable section of this Guide

*The statutory requirements for CE courses are summarized in a [flowchart](#) (http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ceguidelines_faqs)



Limitations and Considerations

For students taking Concurrent Enrollment courses, the student's grade level (as determined by the student's [AYG](#)) and the location in which the course is being offered, some limitations and considerations may be applicable.

Grade Level

During the first four years of high school (as determined by the student's [AYG](#)):

- Upon successfully completing a Concurrent Enrollment postsecondary course, the qualified student must receive credit that applies toward completion of high school graduation requirements.
- Students are not statutorily limited to the number of allowable credit hours per semester or per year.
- Districts may not establish limitations on allowable credit hours per student.

5th Year and Beyond (as determined by the student's [AYG](#)):

Once a student has completed their 4th year of high school, they are restricted to a total of nine (9) Concurrent Enrollment credit hours for the remainder of their high school career. This is true regardless of whether the student is pursuing a traditional diploma program or working towards earning a GED/HSED. Credit hours taken during the 5th year and beyond **MUST** post to the student's high school transcript **AND** apply toward the student meeting their remaining high school graduation requirements.

- All college credit hours must apply toward the student meeting the student's **remaining** graduation requirements.
- Students are limited in the number of college credit hours in which they can be concurrently enrolled
 - Up to 3 credit hours if scheduled less than part-time with high school courses, or
 - Up to 6 credit hours if scheduled at least part-time with high school courses.
- Concurrent Enrollment courses being taken by [home-school students](#) in their 5th year of high school and beyond must apply toward the student meeting their home-school high school graduation requirements.
- Concurrent Enrollment courses being taken by [transition students](#) (accessing 18-21 year old services per their IEP) in their 5th year of high school and beyond must apply toward the student meeting the district's minimum graduation requirements (unless the student is eligible to participate in the [ASCENT](#) program).

Course Location

- Concurrent Enrollment courses offered through the Institution of Higher Education (for both high school and IHE credit) will be evaluated based on credit hours.
- Concurrent Enrollment courses offered at the high school (for both high school and IHE credit) may be evaluated based on scheduled instructional time, or credit hours as described below.
- Online Concurrent Enrollment courses offered through an IHE will be evaluated based on credit hours.

Additional Documentation Requirements

- Verification the district paid all of the student's share of tuition directly to the IHE
- College credit hour verification (from the IHE) in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
- Concurrent Enrollment Cooperative Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- For students in the 5th year of high school:



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- District graduation requirements
 - High school transcript generated prior to, or during, the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
 - For students in the 6th and 7th year of high school:
 - District graduation requirements
 - High school transcript generated prior to, or during, the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
 - Invoices for all IHE terms, beginning with the student's 5th year (as determined by AYG), demonstrating that the district had not previously paid for a total of 9 postsecondary credit hours

Helpful Hints

- A student's "year" of high school is determined using the student's assigned Anticipated Year of Graduation ([AYG](#)).
- Successful completion of the Concurrent Enrollment course is not necessary for the determination of funding.
- Under [House Bill 15-1275](#), IHE coursework related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs may be included in Concurrent Enrollment programs. These classes will be evaluated consistent with all other CE courses. However, the MOU related to these course types must include the IHE, the LEP, and the industry partner providing the apprenticeship and internship programs.
- Passing periods are not allowed in the determination of scheduled instructional time for periods of time between one course evaluated based on actual instructional time and another course evaluated based on college credit hours.
- [Home-school](#) students who are taking CE courses are not eligible for full-time funding, regardless of the number of credit hours for which they are scheduled.
- Only those courses for which the district directly paid all tuition costs to the IHE will be considered in the determination of funding level.
- Fall semester courses offered through an IHE which are not "in session" on the applicable count date (i.e., those that begin and end prior to the count date, or those that begin after the count date and end prior to the end of the fall semester) may be included for funding.
 - For courses beginning after the count date and finishing prior to the end of the fall semester, the student must be enrolled and scheduled for the course as of the count date.
- Postsecondary courses offered online that do not meet the requirements for Concurrent Enrollment evaluation will be assessed as contractual education courses, and the fundable instructional time will be determined using an equivalency for the time students would be on-site if taking a comparable course on an IHE campus.

Reference

[Section 22-35-101, et seq.](#)
[Section 22-35-103 \(6\)\(a\)](#)
[Section 22-35-103\(6\)\(b\)\(I\).](#)
[Section 22-35-104\(1\)\(d\).](#)
[Section 22-35-104\(2\)\(a\)\(III\)\(b\)](#)
[Section 22-54-103\(5.2\).](#)
[1 CCR 301-86](#)
[1 CCR 301-86-2.04, et seq.](#)



<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/cte>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>

[SB 19-176](#)

[HB 15-1275](#)

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/ta_concurrentenroll

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Dropout Recovery Students

What is Unique?

Dropout recovery students are district students who are attending a dropout recovery program offered and run by a community college or local district college in which all courses are being taken at the Institution of Higher Education (IHE). Because all courses are being taken at the IHE, funding eligibility is determined by the number of credit hours for which the district is paying tuition.

For funding purposes, dropout recovery students do not refer to those that are enrolled in a program operated by the local education provider (e.g., the district). An example of a program that is not considered dropout recovery for this purpose is a “credit recovery” program offered by the district.

Programmatic Requirements

- Students must be enrolled in and taking all courses through a dropout recovery program offered and run by a local community college.
 - Dropout recovery students may not be taking classes at a school operated by the local education provider (e.g., the district).
- Dropout recovery courses must count toward the student meeting the district’s minimum graduation requirements.
- Full-time funding eligibility requires the equivalent of 7+ semester credit hours—whether credited on the community college’s transcript or not—so long as the course counts toward high school graduation requirements. **(Note: This credit hour requirement differs from all other post-secondary programs.)**

Limitations

- Students taking dropout recovery courses should never be scheduled into courses offered by the district (i.e., these students should be scheduled exclusively into dropout recovery courses).

Additional Documentation Requirements

- Tuition payment verification (from the district or school to the IHE), including payment for classes not credited on the community college’s transcript
- College credit hour verification (from the IHE) in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
- Cooperative agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- District graduation requirements
- High school transcript generated prior to, or during, the semester of the pupil enrollment count date

Helpful Hints

- Known community colleges that offer dropout recovery programs include, but are not limited to, Pueblo Community College, Front Range Community College, and Red Rocks Community College.
 - Districts should be able to clearly identify which of their students who are enrolled at the IHE are participating in a dropout recovery program (as opposed to a Concurrent Enrollment program).



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- Fall semester courses offered through an IHE which are not “in session” on the applicable count date (i.e., those that begin and end prior to the count date, or those that begin after the count date and end prior to the end of the fall semester) may be included for funding.
 - For courses beginning after the count date and finishing prior to the end of the fall semester, the student must be enrolled and scheduled for the course as of the count date.

Reference

[Section 22-35-109.5.](#)

[SB 19-176](#)

“Community college” must meet the definition as outlined in [Section 23-60-201.](#)

“Local district college” must meet the definition as outlined in [Section 23-71-102.](#)

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention>

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Early College Students

What is Unique?

An Early College, as defined by [C.R.S. 22-35-103\(10\)\(a\)](#), is a secondary school that provides only a curriculum that requires each student to enroll in and complete secondary and postsecondary courses while enrolled in the first four years of high school such that, upon successful completion of the curriculum, the student will have completed the requirements of a high school diploma and an associate's degree or other postsecondary credential or at least sixty credits toward the completion of a postsecondary credential. The curriculum must be designed to be completed within four years.

For more information, including a current list of all designated Early Colleges, please visit the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Office's [Early College High School](#) website.

Due to their unique structure, Early Colleges are likely to have more students taking postsecondary courses; therefore, the requirements considered in the determination of funding will vary.

Additional Documentation Requirements

- If the student is taking postsecondary college courses that need to be evaluated based on credit hours:
 - Tuition payment verification (from the district/school to the college or IHE)
 - Only those courses for which the district directly paid all tuition costs to the college or IHE will be considered in the determination of funding level.
 - College credit hour verification (from the IHE) in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
 - Cooperative agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Helpful Hints

- Passing periods are not allowed in the determination of scheduled instructional time for periods of time between one course evaluated based on actual instructional time and another course evaluated based on postsecondary college credit hours.
- Fall semester courses offered through a college or IHE which are not “in session” on the applicable count date (i.e., those that begin and end prior to the count date, or those that begin after the count date and end prior to the end of the fall semester) may be included for funding.
 - For courses beginning after the count date and finishing prior to the end of the fall semester, the student must be enrolled and scheduled for the course as of the count date.
 - Although attendance is no longer required for postsecondary courses, students taking high school courses must still meet the attendance requirement, even if they are also taking postsecondary courses.

Reference

http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ce_earlycollegehighschool
[SB 19-176](#)
[Section 22-35-103\(10\)\(a\)](#)



TREP (Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation) Program

What is Unique?

The Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation (TREP) program was added to the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA) by [SB 21-185](#). The TREP program creates the opportunity for qualified students in a teaching career pathway to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses for the two years following the 12th grade year (defined as the 5th and 6th years of high school, as determined by the student's [AYG](#)).

For more information about the [TREP](#) program requirements, refer to <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/trep>

The documentation requirements and determination of funding eligibility for students participating in TREP vary from traditional students.

Programmatic Requirements

In addition to other programmatic requirements, students wishing to participate in the TREP program must have been identified during their 4th year of high school, during which time the student must have been enrolled in at least one TREP Pathway course. Further, any student reported as TREP during their 5th or 6th year of high school must have been enrolled in at least one of the TREP Pathway courses **during the fall semester of the year being reported** (whether the first or second year of TREP program participation).

For the 2024-2025 school year, the list of acceptable TREP Pathway courses includes **only**:

ART1110: Art Appreciation DAN1025: Dance Appreciation (GT-AH1) ECE1011: Intro to ECE ECE2101: Working with Families and Communities EDU2088: Practicum II EDU2211: Intro to Education EDU225: Intro to Education Techniques EDU2341: Multicultural Education EDU2611: Teaching, Learning, & Technology ENG1021: English Composition I (GT-CO1) ENG1022: English Composition II (GT-CO2) GEO1005: World Regional Geography GEO1006: Human Geography (GT-SS2) HIS1210: US History to Reconstruction HIS1220: US History Since Civil War (GT-HI1) LIT1015: Intro to Literature (GT-AH2)	LIT2055: Children's Literature (GT-AH2) MAT1340: College Algebra MAT1220/1230: Integrated Math 1-2 MAT1240: Mathematics for the Liberal Arts MAT1260: Intro to Stats MAT2410: Calculus I MUS1010: Music Appreciation POS2020: Introduction to Political Science POS1011: American Government PHI1012: Ethics PSY2440: Human Growth & Development PSY2441: Child Development THE1005: Theater Appreciation Any 2 GTSC-1 OR Any GTSC-1 + GTSC-2
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More information can be found on the Office of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness' [Teaching Career Pathway Fact Sheet and TREP FAQ](#).

Additional Documentation Requirements

- The district must identify which scheduled course is on the TREP pathway

- Verification the district paid the student's share of tuition directly to the IHE
- College credit hour verification (from the IHE) in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
- TREP Cooperative Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- High school transcript

Helpful Hints

- A student's "year" of high school is determined using the student's assigned Anticipated Year of Graduation ([AYG](#)).
- As with all other postsecondary courses that need to be evaluated based on credit hours, only those courses for which the district directly paid all tuition costs to the IHE will be considered in the determination of funding level.

The following table describes the appropriate Student October Count data submission coding for all current year slots:

TREP Slot Allocation Year	Funding Level	Postsecondary Program Enrollment Code	Public School Finance Funding Status Code	Comment
TREP Year 5	Full-time	17	80, 91, 92	TREP student in Year 5 occupying a full-time current year-allocated TREP slot (1.0 FTE)
TREP Year 5	Part-time	17	82, 85, 94, 95	TREP student in Year 5 occupying a part-time current year-allocated TREP slot (0.5 FTE)
TREP Year 5 Carryforward	Full-time	18	87, 96	TREP student in Year 5 occupying a full-time carryforward TREP slot (1.0 FTE) from the prior school year.
TREP Year 5 Carryforward	Part-time	19	87, 96	TREP student in Year 5 occupying a part-time carryforward TREP slot (0.5 FTE) from the prior school year.
Carryforward/Current	Full-time	19	82, 85, 94, 95	This is a full-time TREP student who is occupying a ½ TREP slot from the current year (0.5 FTE) AND ½ carryforward TREP slot from the prior year (0.5 FTE).
TREP Year 6	Full-time	20	80, 91, 92	TREP student in Year 6 occupying a full-time allocated TREP slot (1.0 FTE)
TREP Year 6	Part-time	20	82, 85, 94, 95	TREP student in Year 6 occupying a part-time allocated TREP slot (0.5 FTE)

Reference

[SB 21-185](#)

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/trep>



Unique Schools and Programs

With limited exceptions, all students submitted for funding in the state of Colorado must meet the same enrollment, attendance, and scheduled hours requirements. However, the documentation required to demonstrate those requirements have been met may vary for certain schools and program types. The following sections describe these schools and programs and identify any additional documentation requirements necessary to submit those students for funding.

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Contractual Education Courses

What is Unique?

Contractual education students are those students for whom a district is paying the entire cost of services used to determine funding eligibility to another district or third-party entity to educate one of its students. Services provided through contractual education must be of comparable quality and meet the same requirements and standards that would apply if performed by the school district itself.

If a district is incurring the entire cost of educational services at a non-district location, the district is entitled to submit the student for funding in its Student October Count data submission. In such cases, the district will be responsible for ensuring that it has all necessary documentation from the educational provider evidencing the student has met all funding requirements. Examples of educational providers include, but are not limited to: another Colorado public school district, a BOCES, a state facility, a private provider, etc. The responsibility for ensuring funding and documentation requirements for courses offered by a third party are met lies with the district.

In the event a district is providing the educational services for an out-of-district student and is also receiving tuition (whether paid by the district of residence, student's parent/guardian, or other entity), the district may include the student in its Student October Count data submission; however, the district cannot submit the student for funding.

Additional Documentation Requirements

- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period) from the education provider
- Individual Student [Schedule](#) from the education provider
 - Appropriate documentation showing the student's actual scheduled instructional time. The determination of funding level will be based only on the actual time in which the student is scheduled to receive services. The district will need to determine the appropriate documentation to evidence each student's unique schedule.
 - Only those courses or services for which the district is incurring the cost of the student's general tuition may be included as instructional time in the determination of funding level (assuming all other requirements have been met).
- Education provider program/school calendar
- Education provider program/school bell schedule
- Purchase agreement or contract for educational services between district and educational provider
 - Alternatively, evidence of payment for the entire cost of services used to determine funding eligibility from the district to the third-party educational provider
- ⚠ The Department's "Annual Assurances for Statutory Compliance for Contracted Services"
- Additional documentation, as described in this Guide, for all applicable unique student, course, school, and program types.

Helpful Hints

- If the district is purchasing digital course content for Blended Learning or Supplemental Online courses from a third-party course content provider (such as CDLS, Edmentum, Edgenuity, etc.), the district must indicate this in their [catalog of courses using alternative instruction](#). Further, the district must be prepared to provide evidence of payment for these courses (as applicable). If the district or school uses



digital course content created by district or school staff for these course types, this should also be stated in the catalog.

Reference

[Section 22-54-109.](#)

1 CCR 301-39(5.11)(1), et seq.

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Detention Centers

What is Unique?

Students who are placed short-term in a detention center or Youth Service Center (YSC) may be included in a district's funded pupil count. Education for detention center students is most often provided for by the district in which the detention center is located (if this option is available). If a student is placed in a detention center outside of their resident (or last known) district, there can be some confusion as to which district is eligible to submit the student for funding (i.e., the district in which the student last attended/resides or the district providing the detention center educational services).

Students in detention centers are not considered facility-placed students.

The School Auditing Office provides [Form AUD-101](#) to facilitate communication between districts regarding the funding eligibility of students placed short-term in a detention center. For the sake of clarity, in this Guide:

- "District A" refers to the district of residence (or last known district attended);
- "District B" refers to the district providing the education services at the detention center or YSC.

Audit Documentation Requirements

AUD-101 Process:

- 1) Each district providing the educational services to a non-resident detention center student (District B) is responsible for identifying the student's last known district of attendance (District A). In the event this information is unknown, District B will need to determine the student's district of residence (also District A).
- 2) District B must then provide Form AUD-101 (Detention Center Notification) to District A no later than 15 calendar days following the applicable count date.
- 3) Upon receipt of the AUD-101 form, District A must complete and return Form AUD-101 to District B regarding the detention center student.
 - A. On the form, District A must indicate whether or not the student is eligible for funding through District A. In order to be eligible for funding, District A must ensure that all of the following criteria have been met:
 - Enrollment: The student was still enrolled with District A as of the applicable count date, and
 - Attendance: The student established attendance with District A within 30 days preceding the applicable count date
 - Schedule: The student has a schedule with District A as of the applicable count date that supports funding eligibility.
 - B. If all of the listed criteria have been met, District A will circle "Yes" on Form AUD-101, return it to District B, and submit the student for funding based upon the schedule that was in place as of the applicable count date.
 - C. If all listed criteria are not met, District A will circle "No" on Form AUD-101 and return it to District B.
- 4) Upon receipt of the completed Form AUD-101, District B may submit the student for funding if any of the following criteria apply:
 - A. Form AUD-101 completed by District A is returned with "No" circled in Column 5 for the noted student, OR



- B. District A is the same district providing the educational services at the YSC, (i.e., District A and District B are the same district), OR
- C. There is not a last known Colorado district of residence (or last known district) for the student (i.e., District A cannot be determined).
- D. If Form AUD-101 is not returned to District B, District B should submit the student for funding and the incomplete AUD-101 should be kept and submitted if the student appears in the [Duplicate Count](#) process.

Additional Documentation Requirements

- District A must retain the following for audit purposes in the event a student placed short-term in a detention center is included in its funded pupil count:
 - [Enrollment](#) history generated from the district's Student Information System
 - Daily [Attendance](#).
 - Current year attendance through the applicable count date, AND
 - Completed detention center notification (AUD-101) indicating that the student is eligible to be submitted for funding by District A along with confirmation that it was returned to District B
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
- District B must retain the following for audit purposes in the event a student placed short-term in a detention center is included in its funded pupil count:
 - Entry and exit dates for students in the YSC who were present on the applicable count date
 - Returned form AUD-101 showing that District A is not eligible to include the student for funding
 - Education program bell schedule

Helpful Hints

- Current list of Detention Centers:

District Code	Center Code	Detention Center Name
0040	9801	Prairie Vista Youth Services Center
0130	9802	Marvin W. Foote Youth Services Center
0880	9803	Gilliam Youth Services Center
1020	9804	Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center
1420	9805	Mount View Youth Services Center
2000	9807	Grand Mesa Youth Services Center
2690	9808	Pueblo Youth Services Center
3120	9809	Platte Valley Youth Services Center

- As a reminder, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must use secure means when sending Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to CDE. CDE strongly recommends that districts use a secure method if transferring PII between districts, schools, or with other parties. For example, a secure file sharing tool like Syncplicity, or including the PII in a password protected document. For more information, please contact CDE's [Data Privacy Office](#) at dataprivacy@cde.state.co.us
- This section of the guide does not apply to students [awaiting trial in an adult facility](#) (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/edservforstudentawaitingtrial>).



Reference

[Section 22-32-141.](#)

1 CCR 301-39(5.13), et seq.

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Facility Schools

Note: This section only applies to students attending a CDE-approved facility school. The list of these schools can be found on CDE's [Facility Schools](http://www.cde.state.co.us/facilityschools) website (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/facilityschools>). For the documentation requirements for students attending "facility" schools that do not appear on this list, please see the [Contractual Education Students](#) section of this Guide.

What is Unique?

Approved facility schools receive funding from CDE that is allocated through the legislative process. This funding is known as "facility school state revenue" which is determined using the baseline funding model. Because basic education funding is provided directly to the approved facility schools through this model, in almost all circumstances districts are not entitled to include these students in their funded pupil count as reported in the Student October funding submission.

Students attending a CDE-approved facility may not be submitted for per pupil funding by a district within Student October unless the student meets one of the rare scenarios described below:

- **Transfer students:** The student was attending the facility school as of the count date, but left the facility and began attending the district school within the 11-day count period (i.e., within 5 days following the count date).
- **Short-term placement students:** The student was enrolled, scheduled, and attending a district school during the current school year; was placed short-term at the facility school for a period encompassing the count date (while remaining enrolled at the district school); and resumed attendance at the district school within 30 days following the applicable count date.

The documentation requirements that must be met to claim a student attending a CDE-approved facility school for funding vary depending on which of the above circumstances describe the student's situation, and are discussed below.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Prior to submitting a student attending a facility school for funding, the district should review the [list of CDE-approved facility schools](http://www.cde.state.co.us/facilityschools) (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/facilityschools>).

- If the facility school that the student was attending does not appear on the list, the student may be submitted for funding by meeting the documentation requirements for [Contractual Education](#) students.

Transfer students:

If the district has a student who was attending a CDE-approved facility school on the applicable count date but began attending a district school within 5 school days following the count date, the student may be included in the district's funded pupil count with:

- Documentation showing the student established [attendance](#) at the facility school prior to the count date
- Documentation showing the student established [attendance](#) at the district school within 5 days following the count date
- A student [schedule](#) from the district school supporting the funding level at which the student was claimed

Short-term placement students:



If a district has a student who was previously attending a district school during the current school year, was placed in a facility short-term over the applicable count date, and then returned to the district school within 30 days following the count date, the student may be claimed by the district for funding with:

- Documentation showing the student established [attendance](#) with the district (not including attendance at the approved facility school) during the current school year prior to the applicable count date
- Documentation showing the student resumed [attendance](#) with the district within 30 days following the applicable count date
- A student [schedule](#) from the district school supporting the funding level at which the student was claimed

Helpful Hints

- The [Office of Facility Schools](#) at CDE annually posts the [Tuition Cost Rate](#) (<https://www.cde.state.co.us/facilityschools/finance>). Per this document, the “Tuition Cost Rate” covers costs associated with specialized services as outlined in the student’s IEP. The “Additional Education Costs” may cover day treatment, residential treatment, and/or exceptional costs above and beyond the specialized services covered under the Tuition Cost Rate. These costs (“Tuition” and/or “Additional Education”), if paid by the district, do not entitle the district to include the student in the district’s funded pupil count as reported in Student October; however, payment of these costs may entitle the district to include the student in the district’s [Special Education December count](#) (http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/snap_sped-december).

Reference

[C.R.S. 22-54-129](#)

[Senate bill SB23-219](#)



Home School Enrichment Programs

What is Unique?

“Home school students” are pupils who are receiving non-public, home-based educational services, who are also enrolled in and receiving instruction part-time from a Colorado public school. This includes private school students, who are enrolled in an independent or parochial school, and are also enrolled in and receiving instruction part-time from a Colorado public school.

“Home-school enrichment programs” are run by (or offered through) Colorado public schools to offer part-time educational services to home-school and private school students. To qualify for funding, a student must be able to attend a home-school enrichment program without required participation in a tuition-based non-public school.

Students enrolled in home-school enrichment programs are eligible for a maximum of part-time funding statewide. If a home-school or private school student is receiving part-time services from multiple districts, the student may only be submitted for part-time funding by one district. For additional information, refer to [Appendix B](#) of this Guide.

Home-school enrichment programs may be operated directly by the district, or through a contractual agreement with an outside education provider. If the home-school enrichment program is being operated by a non-district entity, the district must ensure that all of the funding requirements for [Contractual Education](#) are met.

Home-school students receiving no educational services through the district are not eligible for funding. Instructional time at home-school enrichment programs may only include courses that are designed by the district or its contractor.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

In addition to the [enrollment](#) and [attendance](#) requirements for all students, the following additional requirements apply to this student type:

Schedule:

- If a home-school student is receiving some regular education services provided by the district, the home-school student may be eligible for a maximum of part-time funding. **Further, part-time funding will be determined based on the type of courses or services the student is receiving:**
 - Home-school students who are enrolled in [Concurrent Enrollment](#) courses are limited to a maximum of part-time funding, even when they are enrolled for 12 or more CE credit hours.
 - Home-school students in their [5th year](#) and beyond who are enrolled in Concurrent Enrollment courses are subject to the same [course restrictions](#) as other students in their 5th year of high school and beyond.
 - Home-school students who are participating in the [Innovative Learning Opportunities Pilot Program](#) (ILOP) are limited to a maximum of part-time funding.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation



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- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
 - For students participating in a district-operated home-school options program or school, attendance beyond the 11-day count period may be necessary, depending on the frequency in which the students attend these programs or schools.
 - For example, if a program meets once during the 11-day count period and not on the count date, attendance outside the 11-day count period will be needed to show this requirement has been met.
 - For traditional, 100% in-person courses, only days of actual student-teacher contact may be used as attendance days for the purposes of showing that the attendance requirements have been met.
 - For elementary home-school students receiving educational services at a district school, if the student attends after attendance has been taken for the day (e.g., the student comes in for afternoon “specials” and attendance is only taken in the morning), the district may need to collect additional attendance documentation for the student.
 - Individual Student [Schedule](#)
 - For all home-school students, including elementary home-school students receiving educational services at a district school, a student schedule or other documentation will be necessary at the time of audit evidencing the days and times the student was expected to attend, as this may not be captured in the district’s Student Information System.
 - If the district is [contracting](#) with a third party to provide education services to home-school students, the district will be responsible for ensuring funding and documentation requirements have been met.
 - If the district is using [Blended Learning](#) or [Supplemental Online](#) courses to provide education services to home-school students, refer to those sections of this Guide (as well as [Appendix D](#)) for more information.

Helpful Hints

- The terms “home-based,” “home-study,” and “home-school” are sometimes used interchangeably and may vary by district. However, these students are not the same as “[home-bound](#)” students (whose educational services are the primary responsibility of the district that may be provided at the student’s home, hospital, or other off-site location).
- Only teacher-led instruction may be considered as instructional time for funding purposes; instruction being provided by [parents](#) (including that which is delivered “under the supervision of” teachers) may not be included in the calculation of instructional time.

Reference

[Section 22-33-104.5\(6\)\(a\).](#)

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool>

1 CCR 301-39(1.10)

1 CCR 301-39(1.14)

1 CCR 301-39(2.05), et seq.

CCR 301-39(5.06), et seq.



High School Equivalency Diploma Programs

What is Unique?

High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) students are eligible for funding if they:

- Are actively enrolled and participating in an HSED program, OR
- Have received an HSED certificate and have returned to earn their high school diploma

In the event a student is enrolled in an HSED program, the documentation evidencing funding requirements may be different.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

The [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduling](#) requirements for this student type are the same as they are for all students. No additional requirements apply to this student type.

Reminders:

- Students who are actively enrolled and participating in an HSED program can only be reported for funding by a district if the district is providing (or paying the tuition for) the educational services for the student.
 - This is true whether the HSED student is attending a district program or if the district is contracting with another entity to provide the educational services for the student.
- Students who have received an HSED certificate and have returned to earn their high school diploma can only be submitted for funding if the students are under the age of 21 as of the applicable count date, and have not met the district's minimum graduation requirements as of the applicable count date.
 - An exception is made for students receiving services (outlined in an IEP) who turn 21 in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.
- Students pursuing an HSED are eligible to participate in Concurrent Enrollment courses; however, during the [5th year of high school](#) and beyond, HSED students (like all other students) are limited in the number of credit hours they are eligible to take. Refer to the [Concurrent Enrollment](#) section of this Guide to confirm eligibility.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
- For students attending an HSED program operated by a third-party entity (see "[Contractual Education Students](#)"):
 - Tuition payment verification by district to the entity
 - Contract or agreement between the district and the third-party entity
 - Program calendar and bell schedule



Helpful Hints

- When determining full- or part-time funding status for students enrolled in HSED prep courses, districts may only consider the actual teacher-pupil instruction and contact hours that the student is scheduled to receive.
 - The district or program should not automatically assume that the student is eligible for full- or part-time funding based on the number of hours the “lab” or “classroom” is open, but rather on the individual student’s expected times of attendance.
 - For example: The HSED lab is open Monday through Thursday from 10am until 6pm (8 hours per day); however, the student works in the morning and can only attend Monday through Thursday from 4 pm until 6 pm. In this example, the student is scheduled for 2 hours each day, not the 8 hours per day the lab is open.

Reference



ILOP (Innovative Learning Opportunities Program Pilot)

For students who are scheduled for work-based learning experience courses but are NOT participating in the ILOP pilot, see the [“Work-Based Learning Experience Courses”](#) section of this Guide. For students who are receiving education or support through a third-party entity or contractor, but are NOT participating in the ILOP pilot, see the [“Contractual Education”](#) section of this Guide.

For the 2024/2025 school year, this program is continuing to operate as a pilot program. Participation in the pilot for this year is limited to the [Local Education Providers](#) identified at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ilopparticipatingleps>

For more information about this [pilot program](#), visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ilop>

What is Unique?

Students who are participating in the ILOP program are exempt from meeting the minimum scheduled hours threshold that is otherwise required for full-time funding. However, in order to be eligible for funding, districts must still provide documentation which demonstrates that these students have met the enrollment and attendance requirements. Additionally, based on the nature of the specific innovative learning opportunity in which a student is participating, further documentation may be necessary to demonstrate the student’s participation in the program.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

The [enrollment](#) and [attendance](#) requirements for students participating in this pilot program are the same as they are for all students. However, the scheduling requirements that must be met to be eligible for full-time funding are different for participating students. Students participating in at least one qualifying ILOP course are eligible for full-time funding. For student schedules to be assessed in consideration of these alternative requirements, Local Education Providers (LEPs) must provide (to the [Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness](#) office) yearly ILOP course assurances that clearly state the course titles and course codes which will qualify as innovative learning opportunities.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility from the education provider
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
 - If the student is taking postsecondary *only*, attendance verification is not required.
- [Individual Student Schedule](#)
 - Must include at least one ILOP course listed on the ILOP Course Assurances
- Program Innovative Learning Plan
- Assurance of Courses Offered for the 2023-24 ILOP Program
- For [work-based](#) innovative learning opportunities (including apprenticeships, internships, residencies, etc.):
 - An employer contract dated on or before the count date that includes the following information:
 - Student name, term (example “Fall 2024”), employer name, description of work, and approximate expected amount of work time per week



- If a student has no courses on-site at the high school, verification of attendance from the employer.
- For innovative learning opportunities in which another entity is [contracted](#) to educate or support the student:
 - Purchase agreement or contract for educational services between district and educational provider. Alternatively, evidence of tuition paid by the district to the educational provider.
 - If a student has no courses on-site at the high school, verification of attendance from the educational provider.

Helpful Hints

Data Reporting Guidance

- Refer to the Data Pipeline “Student Interchange- Student School Association” [File Layout and Definitions](http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_student) for a full description of each at http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_student
- All students who are participating in the ILOP pilot (except home-school students) will be eligible for full-time funding. However, when identifying students who are participating in the ILOP pilot in the Student October Count data submission, reporting staff must distinguish between those students whose schedules would have qualified them for full-time funding without the ILOP course, and those who would have otherwise been considered part-time (without the ILOP course).

The guidelines for coding ILOP students are summarized in the following table:

Innovative Learning Opportunities Pilot (ILOP) code	Student Schedule	Public School Finance Funding Status
0	Student is not participating in an ILOP program	any
1	Student is participating in an ILOP program and is scheduled <u>for less than</u> 360 hours of instruction (<u>excluding</u> ILOP courses).	80, 91, or 92
2	Student is participating in an ILOP program and is scheduled <u>for at least</u> 360 hours of instruction (<u>excluding</u> ILOP courses).	80, 91, or 92

Note: Home-school students participating in an ILOP program are eligible for a maximum of part-time funding. These students should be reported with an ILOP code of 1, a funding code of 85, and a home-based education flag value of 1.

- As with all other courses in which another entity is contracted to educate or support the student, only those courses for which the district directly paid all tuition costs will be considered in the determination of funding level.
- ILOP courses that meet the definition of alternative instruction courses must meet the applicable requirements in order to be considered for funding.

Reference

[Section 22-35.6-101.](#)



<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ilop-program-guidance-final>

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Online Schools and Programs

IMPORTANT: This section refers only to Colorado public Online Schools and Programs as described in [1 CCR 301-71](#). For information regarding online or blended learning courses not offered through one of these Online Schools or Programs, please see the “[Blended Learning](#)” and “[Supplemental Online Courses](#)” sections of this Guide.

What is Unique?

Any approved multi-district Online School or identified single-district Online School or Program **must ensure** that it has all documentation outlined below for all students reported for funding in its district’s Student October Count data submission available at the time of audit. These requirements apply regardless of whether the Online School or Program utilizes a “blended learning” model which incorporates both face-to-face and online course delivery methods.

Per [1 CCR 301-71](#), the intent of Online Schools and Programs “is to deliver a sequential program of synchronous or asynchronous instruction directed by a teacher primarily through online digital learning strategies that provide students choice over time, place, and path, and teacher-guided modality of learning.” Students enrolled in and taking courses through these Online Schools and Programs (“online students”) are eligible to be included in the district’s funded pupil count. To be considered for funding, online students must meet the same [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduled hours](#) requirements as all other students. However, because these Online Schools and Programs offer more flexibility in the times and locations in which students are participating in courses, the documentation necessary to support funding eligibility is different from students primarily enrolled in brick-and-mortar schools.

Funding Requirements

Enrollment Requirements

As is true for all students, in order to be eligible for funding, online students must be enrolled with the district as of the applicable count date (unless they qualify as a [transfer enrollment exception](#)). Additionally, online students must have proof of Colorado residency.

- Pursuant to [1 CCR 301-71-8.06](#), Online Schools and Programs must collect appropriate documentation evidencing proof of Colorado residency upon initial enrollment and annually thereafter. Therefore, documentation must be dated within the 365 days preceding the applicable count date. Further, Online Schools and Programs must retain this documentation in the student’s mandatory permanent record.
- Acceptable documentation to evidence Colorado residency includes, but is not limited to:
 - Property tax payment receipts
 - Residential Lease Agreement (that encompasses the applicable count date)
 - Rent payment receipts
 - Inclusion on the SNAP/TANF direct certification list
 - Completed Family Economic Data Survey (FEDS) form (available on the School Auditing Office’s [At-Risk Count](#) website) or Application for Free and Reduced-Priced School Meals
 - Utility service payment receipts showing service dates beginning prior to the count date, service and mailing addresses in Colorado, that are addressed to the parent, guardian, or another household member
 - Written “Statement of Residency” (example and instructions can be found on CDE’s [Online and Blended Learning Resources](#) website)
 - Appropriate residency documentation for a member or dependent of a member of the United States Armed Services



- McKinney-Vento list provided by the district's homeless liaison
 - Migrant list provided by the district's regional migrant liaison
- Proof of residency is not required for students who are required to be on-site regularly for any portion of the instructional day, if appropriate evidence of on-site attendance is provided. Otherwise, proof of Colorado residency (as described above) is required.

Attendance Requirements

Online students must meet the same attendance requirements to be eligible for funding that students at brick-and-mortar schools must meet. However, because students enrolled in an Online School or Program do not necessarily "attend" a physical location, Online School and Program authorizers are required to submit [Authorizer Assurances](#) that describe the local board policies regarding the tracking of student enrollment, attendance, and participation. These Assurances ensure compliance with the compulsory attendance requirements, as well as the attendance requirements for funding as described below:

Online students:

- Must participate in one of the activities described on the Authorizer Assurances on the applicable count date,
or:
- If the student does not participate (for any reason) in one of the activities described on the Authorizer Assurances on the applicable count date (including non-student contact days), then the student:
 - Must establish participation prior to the applicable count date during the current school year
AND
 - Resume participation within 30 days following the applicable count date.

For audit purposes, all documentation provided to evidence student attendance and participation must have been included in the submitted Authorizer Assurances to be considered.

Scheduled Hours Requirements

Students primarily enrolled in Online Schools or Programs must meet the same scheduled hours requirements that students at brick-and-mortar schools must meet. While all schools and most programs (both online and brick-and-mortar) provide the opportunity for students to receive a full day of instruction, funding level is determined by each student's scheduled hours of instructional time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date, as described below:

- **Part-time funding:** Students must be scheduled for at least 90, but less than 360, hours
- **Full-time funding:** Students must be scheduled for at least of 360 hours

Pursuant to [1 CCR 301-71-8.02](#), for Online Schools and Programs "the determination of full-time or part-time status is based upon the minimum number of hours provided for a student to receive instruction. Minimum hours can be based on the number of hours per day (or week) required to earn **an equivalent number of credits in a traditional classroom setting.**" See the "[Determining Equivalent Instructional time](#)" section below for guidance.



Considerations for Scheduling Online Students

In order to ensure districts are receiving the appropriate funding for each student, the following guidance should be taken into consideration when scheduling students:

- Student schedules should clearly state all courses into which the student is scheduled during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.
 - These courses should appear on the schedule provided to the student as of the count date (i.e., students should be aware of all courses in which they are expected to participate during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date).
 - In the event a student's schedule changes during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date, it is recommended that these changes be documented and available upon request at the time of audit.
 - Student schedules must include all courses which are to be considered in the determination of funding level.
- Each student's schedule should be developed to meet the student's individual needs (i.e., not a generic or "placeholder" schedule).
 - While generalized grade-level schedules may be appropriate for elementary and middle school students, high school students' schedules should be individualized in order to assure progress toward graduation.
 - As with brick-and-mortar students, because schedules are student-specific, not all online students may be eligible for full-time funding based on their scheduled equivalent instructional hours.
 - For example, a full-time schedule may not be appropriate for some high school students. This may include students with family or work obligations, or those who do not need a full-time schedule in order to meet graduation requirements.
- Funding level should be based on the student's entire fall semester schedule. Therefore, if an Online School or Program follows a different calendar structure, it must take into consideration all terms that fall within the equivalent of the first semester. For example:
 - If a district follows a semester structure, funding should be based on the fall semester schedule.
 - If a district follows a quarter structure, funding should be based on quarters 1 and 2.
 - If a district follows a hexter schedule, funding should be based on hexters 1, 2, and 3.
- In elementary and middle school grades, scheduling should take into consideration the number of courses necessary, if completed successfully, that would allow for the student to progress to the next grade level.
 - In addition, schedules should be inclusive of programming sufficient to allow students an opportunity to develop mastery of state core academic standards in Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Determining Equivalent Instructional time

Online Schools and Programs "provide students choice over time, place, path, and teacher-guided modality of learning" ([1 CCR 301-71-2.10](#)). Additionally, pursuant to [1 CCR 301-71-8.02](#), "the determination of full-time or part-time status is based upon the minimum number of hours provided for a student to receive instruction. Minimum hours can be based on the number of hours per day (or week) required to earn an equivalent number of credits in a traditional classroom setting."



Traditional Classroom Setting Calculations

Although Online Schools and Programs are afforded more flexibility in the manner in which instruction is provided, they must still meet the same scheduled hours requirements as a traditional classroom setting. In a traditional brick-and-mortar setting, districts must complete a [calendar calculation](#). The purpose of a calendar calculation is to demonstrate, based on the number of scheduled student contact days in a given school year, the average number of minutes per instructional day necessary to meet full- or part-time funding thresholds. In addition to a calendar calculation, districts must conduct a [bell schedule calculation](#) in order to determine the amount of instructional time associated with each scheduled semester course or period.

- For example, a district semester class that averages 55 minutes per day of instruction (based on the bell schedule calculation) would provide between 70 to 85 hours of instructional time, based upon the number of scheduled student contact days in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

When determining funding eligibility, brick-and-mortar schools then evaluate each individual student schedule by applying minutes per period as evidenced on the bell schedule to determine the minutes per day on average the student is receiving instruction.

- Following the general rule described above, a student's schedule would require 5 of these "typical" classes in order to qualify for full-time funding (because 4 classes at 85 hours per class would result in 340 hours of instruction, which would be insufficient to meet the full-time threshold).

Equivalent Calculations for Online Schools and Programs

When evaluating courses, Online Schools and Programs are encouraged to work closely with their Authorizer to determine the appropriate equivalent instructional time (i.e., an "equivalency statement") for the same or similar courses offered in a brick-and-mortar setting. During this process, Online Schools and Programs (and their Authorizer) should consider:

- A time equivalency is meant to emulate the amount of instructional time a student would receive within a classroom if taking the same or similar course in a brick-and-mortar school, so online instructional time and brick-and-mortar instructional time should be reasonably aligned.
 - Online courses which offer total instructional time within 10% of their brick-and-mortar equivalent will be considered "reasonably aligned."
 - △ Passing periods should not be included when creating an equivalency to a brick-and-mortar course.
 - Similar to brick-and-mortar courses, online course equivalencies should NOT include any coursework time that would have occurred outside the classroom in a brick-and-mortar setting (e.g., homework). For example, if a student taking classes in a brick-and-mortar setting were scheduled for 75 hours of direct instructional time in the classroom, and completes an additional 15 hours working independently on assignments and projects outside of the classroom, only the 75 classroom hours of instructional time would count toward the 360 hours needed for full-time funding (not the total 90 hours). As such, the appropriate equivalency for the same or similar online course would be 75 hours, not 90.
- An online course should be structured so that students would be provided with an opportunity to successfully master the same breadth of learning provided to a student if the same class was offered in an in-person environment. By collaborating with the authorizing body, an Online School would receive meaningful feedback to ensure that course designs offer such comparable breadth to in-person courses as well as building reasonable assurance that opportunities for achieving mastery are comparable.
- Like brick-and-mortar schools, not all courses necessarily receive the same time equivalency. For example, in a brick-and-mortar setting, courses such as homeroom, orientation, required advisement periods, etc. may have fewer scheduled teacher-pupil instruction and contact minutes per day; therefore, the Online School or Program should use an appropriate time equivalency for all courses.



- Courses for which students do not receive credit on their transcripts may be considered in the determination for funding with an appropriate time equivalency.
 - The publishing of course documentation at the beginning of the school year with defined course equivalency will provide greater assurance as to the reasonableness of the course equivalency assigned.
- Concurrent Enrollment courses (including those taken by students participating in ASCENT and TREP) are never subject to an equivalency calculation; these courses will only be assessed based on college credit hours. For more information, please see the [Concurrent Enrollment](#) section of this Guide.

Audit Documentation Requirements

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - **Proof of Colorado Residency (POR)** must be dated within 365 days preceding or on the applicable count date
 - This document requirement is deemed met if the district is able to provide appropriate evidence of regular on-site attendance.
 - [Transfer enrollment](#) exception documentation, if appropriate
- Daily [Attendance](#)
 - **Authorizer Assurances**
 - When submitting the Authorizer Assurances, the Authorizer must provide local board policy defining and describing the activities that may be considered participation in the education process for the purpose of establishing attendance in the Online School or Program.
 - The Authorizer must also provide samples of documentation that will be used to demonstrate students have met the attendance requirement to CDE's Office of Blended and Online Learning.
 - **Attendance/participation documentation**
 - This may be evidenced by attendance on the count day. In the event the student did not attend or participate on the count date, documentation evidencing attendance or participation during the current school year prior to the applicable count date and within 30 days following the count date is acceptable.
 - At the time of the funding audit, the School Auditing Office will only consider the same type of documentation as that which was submitted as a sample along with the Authorizer Assurances and local board policy.
- Individual [Student Schedule](#) for all online students (regardless of grade level)
 - **Individual student schedule**
 - Individual student schedules should include the entire first semester (which may include the fall semester, Quarters 1 and 2, Hexters 1, 2, and 3, etc.)
 - **Course Documentation**
 - For each course code and name that appears on a student's schedule (and which is to be used in the determination of funding), the district must be prepared to provide course documentation which includes, at a minimum:
 - Assigned semester credit hours (for students in grades 9-12)
 - Equivalent instructional time (i.e., an equivalency statement as to instructional hours per semester)
 - A semester is defined as one-half of the school year; therefore, this is calculated by determining the total number of scheduled student



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- contact days (as evidenced by the appropriate calendar) and dividing by two.
 - A description of the course content with sufficient information so that a reasonable individual would have enough understanding of the material covered to understand the overall breadth of the course.
 - If a course is to be used in the determination of funding, an entry is required even if no credits are awarded (e.g., zero-credit courses, pass/fail courses, etc.)
 - If a singular document (such as a course catalog, vendor course guidebook, student handbook, etc.) does not contain all of the required course information, supplemental documents which contain the missing information may be provided.
- **Calendar**
 - Pursuant to 1 CCR 301-71-8.03, an Online School or Program “must have a calendar that reasonably aligns with the beginning date of the school year of the Authorizer that operates it or has been approved for an alternate calendar by the Authorizer and the Department.” The calendar should demonstrate which days are teacher-pupil instruction and student contact days. The calendar should also identify any non-contact days (weekends, teacher work days, scheduled holidays, etc.) for both terms.

Helpful Hints

- Colorado resident students, temporarily residing outside of Colorado with their parent or guardian, are eligible to enroll in an Online School or Program if appropriate documentation evidencing Colorado residency is provided (e.g., Colorado voter registration, documentation supporting payment of Colorado taxes, or other comparable documentation supporting residency in the state of Colorado). In such cases, the absence from the state must be temporary with the intention of the family to return to Colorado.
- Online Schools and Programs are encouraged to review the Duplicate Count section ([Appendix C](#)) of this Guide, as the documentation requirements for Duplicate Count may exceed the requirements detailed above.

Reference

[Section 22-30.7-105.](#)
[Section 22-30.7-106\(2\).](#)
[Section 22-30.7-107.](#)
[Section 22-54-103\(8.5\) and 103\(10\)\(a\)\(I\) and 103\(10\)\(e.5\).](#)
[1 CCR 301-71](#)
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/onlinelearning/resources>



P-TECH (Pathway in Technology Early College High School and Program)

What is Unique?

A Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) is a secondary school or program that provides its students the opportunity to earn simultaneously a high school diploma and an industry-recognized Associate's degree, while also receiving relevant workplace skills in the form of internships, pre-apprenticeships, and other workplace educational experiences through partnership with high-growth industry employers. Because P-TECH students may be taking a combination of courses and work-based educational opportunities offered by both the district and an Institution of Higher Education (IHE), the funding and documentation requirements for students enrolled in a P-TECH school or program vary from those students participating in Concurrent Enrollment and/or those attending an Early College not associated with P-TECH.

For more information, including a current list of all approved P-TECH programs, please visit the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Office's [P-TECH](http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/p-tech) website (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/p-tech>).

Funding and Audit Documentation

Requirements:

In addition to the [enrollment](#) and [attendance](#) requirements for all students, the way in which funding eligibility is determined for P-TECH students will vary depending on the year in which the student is in school and the type of courses being taken.

Students in grades 9 through 12 (P-TECH students in their first four years of high school) taking:

- **High school courses only in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date:**
 - Full-time funding: 360+ semester hours of instructional time
 - Part-time funding: at least 90 semester hours, but less than 360 hours, of instructional time
- **Postsecondary college courses only in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date:**
 - Full-time funding: 12+ semester credit hours
 - Part-time funding: 3-11 semester credit hours
- **Both high school and postsecondary college courses in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date:**
 - In order to receive full-time funding, students enrolled in both high school and college courses must meet one of the following funding requirements:
 - Full-time funding requirement met with all high school courses, or
 - Full-time funding requirement met with all courses offered through the IHE, or
 - Part-time funding requirement met with high school courses and part-time funding requirement met with courses offered through the IHE
 - In order to receive part-time funding, students must meet one of the requirements for part-time funding discussed above (i.e., 90 semester hours at the high school or 3-11 credit hours through the IHE).

5th and 6th Year P-TECH Students:

- Students enrolled in their 5th or 6th year of high school (as determined by a student's [AYG](#)) at a P-TECH school or program are eligible for full-time funding if they are scheduled for a minimum of one class in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.



- A class may include any course or work-based learning experience, offered or facilitated by the district or an Institution of Higher Education, in which a student is receiving credit toward meeting the P-TECH school or program graduation requirements.
 - [Work-based learning experiences](#) include, but are not limited to, work study, work experience, internships, apprenticeships, etc.

Documentation

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period) from the district or employer, except
 - Attendance verification is not required if the student is taking postsecondary *only*, including work-based learning experience courses facilitated by the IHE.
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
 - If the student is taking college courses only (including work-based learning experiences facilitated by the IHE):
 - Tuition Payment Verification (from the district/school to the IHE)
 - College Credit Hour Verification (from the IHE)
 - Agreement between district (including P-TECH school or program) and the IHE

Helpful Hints

- A student's "year" of high school is determined using the student's assigned Anticipated Year of Graduation ([AYG](#)).
- Districts must verify P-TECH coding and P-TECH transfer eligibility with the Office of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness, especially for new P-TECH programs with students enrolling for the 12th grade year (i.e., 4th year of high school).
- Fall semester postsecondary courses offered through an IHE which are not "in session" on the applicable count date (i.e., those that begin and end prior to the count date, or those that begin after the count date and end prior to the end of the fall semester) may be included for funding.
 - For courses beginning after the count date and finishing prior to the end of the fall semester, the student must be enrolled and scheduled for the course as of the count date.
 - Although attendance is no longer required for Concurrent Enrollment courses, students taking high school courses must still meet the attendance requirement, even if they are also taking courses offered by the IHE.
- As with all other postsecondary courses that need to be evaluated based on credit hours, only those courses for which the district directly paid all tuition costs to the IHE will be considered in the determination of funding level.

Reference

[Section 22-35.3-101.](#)

[HB 15-1270](#)

[HB 17-1194](#)

[SB 19-176](#)

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/p-tech>



Unique Student Types

With limited exceptions, all students submitted for funding in the state of Colorado must meet the same enrollment, attendance, and scheduled hours requirements. However, the documentation required to demonstrate those requirements have been met may vary for certain student types. The following sections describe these students and identify any additional documentation requirements necessary to submit them for funding.

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Expelled Students

What is Unique?

Typically, a student who has been expelled receives educational services at a location other than the school where they were attending prior to expulsion. Expelled students may be eligible for funding if the district is providing educational services to the student as of the applicable count date. Expelled students must still meet the same enrollment and attendance requirements as all other students; however, the schedule used to determine funding-level eligibility will vary depending on when the student last attended a district school prior to expulsion.

The way in which the district documents funding eligibility may vary for expelled students. In the event the district is offering expelled services through an online platform, the district should review the [Blended Learning Courses](#), [Supplemental Online Courses](#), and [Online Schools and Programs](#) sections of this Guide to determine if additional funding and documentation requirements apply.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

The student [schedule](#) used to determine funding-level eligibility for expelled students will be dependent on when the student is expelled and whether the student established [attendance](#) in or outside of the expelled program.

Scenario 1:

Students expelled prior to the start of the school year who remained expelled at least through the count date:

- These students have not attended their primary school during the current school year (prior to the count date), and have only participated in an expelled program or through expelled services.
- Funding level is determined based on the scheduled instructional time the student is scheduled to receive in the expelled program or through expelled services.
- Attendance documentation from the expelled program demonstrating participation in expelled services on the count date (or, alternatively, before the count date and within 30 days following the count date) should be provided at audit.

Scenario 2:

Students expelled after the start of the school year on or within 30 days following the count date (this includes students who were suspended out-of-school during the 11-day count period, awaiting an expulsion hearing:

- These students have established attendance at a district school during the current school year (prior to the count date), but did not meet the attendance requirement at the district school on or within 30 days following the count date.
- Funding level is determined based upon the scheduled instructional time as evidenced by the student's schedule at the time of expulsion.
- Attendance documentation should be provided from both the district school (prior to expulsion) AND from the expelled program or expelled services (on the count date or within 30 days following the count date).
 - The district should attempt to start expelled services within 30 days following the applicable count date in order for the student to meet the attendance requirements for funding (i.e., resume attendance within 30 days following the applicable count date).



Scenario 3:

Students returning from expulsion prior to the applicable count date:

- These students will be evaluated similarly to all other students and must meet the same funding requirements as all other students. These students should not be reported as expelled during the Student October data submission.
- Funding level is determined based upon the scheduled instructional time as evidenced by the student's schedule as of the count date.
- Attendance documentation should be provided demonstrating the student met the attendance requirement.
 - To demonstrate the attendance requirement has been met, it may be necessary (based on a student's circumstances) to provide a combination of documents from both the district school and the expelled program or expelled services.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation.
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
 - Districts should be prepared to provide appropriate attendance documentation from all applicable district schools and/or programs which were providing educational services to the expelled student (including programs, alternative schools, etc.) showing that the requirements have been met.
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
 - Individual student schedules with corresponding calendars and bell schedules (as applicable). In some cases, the student's schedule may include a description and frequency of expelled educational services being delivered to the student.

Helpful Hints

- Expelled educational services can be provided or offered in a variety of ways. It is important that the district identify the types of services being offered in order to ensure that the students receiving these services meet the enrollment, attendance, and scheduled hours requirements necessary for funding eligibility, and to identify the appropriate documentation necessary to demonstrate that these criteria have been met.
- If the district is using [Blended Learning](#) or [Supplemental Online](#) courses to provide education services to expelled students, refer to those sections of this Guide (as well as [Appendix D](#)) for more information.

Reference

[Section 22-33-203.](#)

1 CCR 301-39(5.03)(2)(b)

1 CCR 301-39(5.07)



Foreign Exchange Students

What is Unique?

Depending on the type of exchange program through which a student is attending a Colorado public school, the student may or may not be required to pay tuition to the district providing educational services. Foreign exchange students with a J-1 visa who are enrolled through a sponsor organization, as designated by the U.S. Department of State, do not pay tuition and are therefore eligible for funding. Conversely, a student on an F-1 visa (who receives Form I-20) must pay tuition, and is therefore not eligible for funding.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

The [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduling](#) requirements for this student type are the same as they are for all students.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation.
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
- Evidence of a J-1 student visa. This may include documentation from the sponsor organization as designated by the U.S. Department of State.
 - A student passport is not adequate documentation for evidencing visa type, unless it indicates the type of visa on which the student has entered the country.

Helpful Hints

- Students who reside in Colorado with their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) on a temporary visa are not considered foreign exchange and are eligible for funding without additional documentation.
- Examples of Colorado residency include Colorado voter registration, documentation supporting payment of Colorado taxes, or other comparable documentation supporting residency in the state of Colorado.

Reference

<https://j1visa.state.gov/>



Home-Bound Students

What is Unique?

A home-bound student receives educational services at a location other than a school district building (e.g., student's home, hospital, etc.) because the student is not able to physically attend school. This includes students who cannot physically attend due to a temporary or permanent illness, hospitalization, medical or mental health impairment or condition, or due to an [expelled](#) or incarcerated status. Home-bound students may be eligible for funding if the district is providing educational services to the student as of the applicable count date. Home-bound students must still meet the same enrollment and attendance requirements as all other students; however, the schedule used to determine funding-level eligibility will vary depending on when the student last attended a district school prior to starting home-bound services.

The way in which the district documents funding eligibility may vary for home-bound students. In the event the district is offering home-bound services through an online platform, the district should review the [Blended Learning Courses](#), [Supplemental Online Courses](#), and [Online Schools and Programs](#) sections of this Guide to determine if additional funding and documentation requirements apply.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

The student [schedule](#) used to determine funding-level eligibility for home-bound students will be dependent on when the student began receiving home-bound services and whether the student established [attendance](#) in a program other than the home-bound program.

Scenario 1

Students receiving home-bound services from the start of the school year and through at least the count date:

- These students have not attended at a district school building during the current school year (prior to the count date), and have only received education through home-bound services.
- Funding level is determined based on the instructional time the student is scheduled to receive from the home-bound services provider.
- Attendance documentation from the home-bound program showing the student established attendance on the count date (or, alternatively, before the count date and within 30 days following the count date) should be provided at audit.

Scenario 2

Students starting homebound services after the start of the school year but on or within 30 days following the count date:

- These students have established attendance at a district school building during the current school year (prior to the count date), but did not meet the attendance requirement on or within 30 days following the count date at the district school building.
- Funding level is determined based upon the scheduled instructional time as evidenced by the student's schedule at the time the student began receiving homebound services.
- Attendance documentation should be provided from both the district school (prior to beginning home-bound services) AND from the home-bound services provider (on the count date or within 30 days following the count date).



Scenario 3

Students stopping home-bound services prior to the count date:

- These students will be evaluated similarly to all other students and must meet the same funding requirements as all other students.
- Funding level is determined based upon the scheduled instructional time as evidenced by the student's schedule as of the count date.
- Attendance documentation should be provided demonstrating the student met the attendance requirement.
 - To demonstrate the attendance requirement has been met, it may be necessary (based on a student's circumstances) to provide a combination of documents from both the district school and the home-bound services provider.

Documentation:

Since home-bound services may vary, the enrollment, attendance, and scheduled hours documentation provided by the district must align with the services provided to each student.

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period or longer, if necessary)
 - If the student was receiving home-bound services through an online program or home-bound tutoring, the district would need to provide the appropriate online or home-bound attendance documentation, such as log-ins and/or tutor logs.
 - In some cases, the district may need to provide multiple types of attendance to show the student met the requirements (i.e., SIS attendance report prior to, and tutor logs after, a student's designation as home-bound).
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
 - In some cases, the student's schedule may include a description and frequency of home-bound educational services being delivered to the student (i.e., days/times for scheduled tutoring sessions, etc.)
 - For example, if a home-bound student is scheduled to receive in-home tutoring 2 hours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for a total of 6 hours per week, this would be the student's schedule.

Helpful Hints

- If a student establishes attendance in the current school year prior to the count date and then is absent on the applicable count date awaiting home-bound services, the district should attempt to start those services within 30 days following the applicable count date in order for the student to meet the attendance requirements for funding (i.e., resume attendance within 30 days following the applicable count date).
- Students may be considered "home-bound" and receiving services through a home-bound program for a variety of reasons, such as receiving services as outlined in an IEP, illness, expulsion, incarceration, injury, etc.
- For additional scheduling concerns regarding students receiving services as outlined in an IEP, please review the [Scheduled Teacher-Pupil Instruction and Contact Hours Funding Eligibility](#) section of this Guide.
- If the district is using [Blended Learning](#) or [Supplemental Online](#) courses to provide education services to home-bound students, refer to those sections of this Guide (as well as [Appendix D](#)) for more information.



Reference

1 CCR 301-39(1.09)

1 CCR 301-39(5.03)(2)(c)

1 CCR 301-39(5.07)

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Home-School and Private School Students

What is Unique?

A home-school student is a pupil receiving education under a non-public, home-based educational program where the parent or guardian (not the district) has taken on the primary responsibility for providing the student's education in a home setting. A private school student is a pupil enrolled in an independent or parochial school. These students are eligible to be reported for funding if they are also enrolled and receiving instruction part-time from a Colorado public school (and provided they meet all other funding requirements). For these students, the parent, guardian, or private school has taken on primary responsibility for providing the student's education; therefore, districts are limited in the amount of funding that they can receive for a home-school and private school students.

Some students may attend a "[home-school enrichment program](#)" run by (or offered through) a Colorado public school to receive part-time educational services. To qualify for funding, a student must be able to attend the home-school enrichment program without required participation in a tuition-based non-public school.

Home-school and private school students are eligible for a maximum of part-time funding statewide. If a home-school student is receiving part-time services from multiple districts, the student may only be submitted for part-time funding by one district. For additional information, refer to [Appendix C](#) of this Guide.

Home-school and private school students receiving no educational services through the district are not eligible for funding.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

In addition to the [enrollment](#) and [attendance](#) requirements for all students, the following additional requirements apply to this student type:

Schedule:

- If a home-school student is receiving some regular education services provided by the district, the home-school student may be eligible for a [maximum of part-time funding](#). **Further, part-time funding will be determined based on the type of courses or services the student is receiving:**
 - Home-school students who are enrolled in [Concurrent Enrollment](#) courses are limited to a maximum of part-time funding, even when they are enrolled for 12 or more CE credit hours.
 - Home-school students in their [5th year](#) and beyond who are enrolled in Concurrent Enrollment courses are subject to the same [course restrictions](#) as other students in their 5th year of high school and beyond.
 - Home-school students who are participating in the [Innovative Learning Opportunities Pilot Program](#) (ILOP) are limited to a maximum of part-time funding.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)



- For students participating in a district-operated home-school options program or school, attendance beyond the 11-day count period may be necessary, depending on the frequency in which the students attend these programs or schools.
 - For example, if a program meets once during the 11-day count period and not on the count date, attendance outside the 11-day count period will be needed to show this requirement has been met.
- For traditional, 100% in-person courses, only days of actual student-teacher contact may be used as attendance days for the purposes of showing that the attendance requirements have been met.
- For elementary home-school students receiving educational services at a district school, if the student attends after attendance has been taken for the day (e.g., the student comes in for afternoon “specials” and attendance is only taken in the morning), the district may need to collect additional attendance documentation for the student.
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
 - For all home-school students, including elementary home-school students receiving educational services at a district school, a student schedule or other documentation will be necessary at the time of audit evidencing the days and times the student was expected to attend, as this may not be captured in the district’s Student Information System.
- If the district is [contracting](#) with a third party to provide education services to home-school students, the district will be responsible for ensuring funding and documentation requirements have been met.
- If the district is using [Blended Learning](#) or [Supplemental Online](#) courses to provide education services to home-school students, refer to those sections of this Guide (as well as [Appendix D](#)) for more information.

Helpful Hints

- The terms “home-based,” “home-study,” and “home-school” are sometimes used interchangeably and may vary by district. However, these students are not the same as “[home-bound](#)” students (whose educational services are the primary responsibility of the district that may be provided at the student’s home, hospital, or other off-site location).
- Only teacher-led instruction may be considered as instructional time for funding purposes; instruction being provided by [parents](#) (including that which is delivered “under the supervision of” teachers) may not be included in the calculation of instructional time.

Reference

[Section 22-33-104.5\(6\)\(a\).](#)

1 CCR 301-39(1.10)

1 CCR 301-39(1.14)

1 CCR 301-39(2.05)(1)(c)(V)

1 CCR 301-39(5.06)(2), et seq.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool>



Kindergarten Students - Special Circumstances

What is Unique?

Kindergarten students who are at least five years old as of October 1 of the current school year are eligible for a maximum of full-time funding, assuming they are enrolled in a full-day kindergarten program in which the student is scheduled to receive at least 360 hours of teacher pupil instruction and contact time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

There are two circumstances in which kindergarten students who do not meet the above criteria may still be eligible for funding:

- Kindergarten students under the age of five as of October 1 may be eligible for funding, provided they meet one of the exceptions outlined below.
- Retained kindergarten students enrolled in a half-day kindergarten program are eligible for full-time funding if they are retained due to a Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD).

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

The [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduling](#) requirements for this student type are the same as they are for all students.

Kindergarten Students Under the Age of 5 as of October 1

Scenario 1

If a kindergarten student is identified as highly advanced gifted and granted early access, the student is eligible for funding if the following requirements are met and the student has an [Advanced Learning Plan \(ALP\)](#) dated on or before September 30 indicating the district identified the student for grade acceleration:

- Districts and multi-district members (i.e., BOCES) who have an [Early Access Addendum](#) filed with the Office of Gifted Education are eligible to submit these students for funding.
- Students must meet the requirements of a highly advanced gifted student who has been granted early access into kindergarten and the district must have documentation to support early access.
- Additional documentation (beyond the ALP) may be necessary in the event the ALP does not contain all required information.

Scenario 2

If a kindergarten student has a parent that is/was active military and the student was enrolled in kindergarten during the current school year outside of Colorado, the student may be eligible for funding if any of the following requirements apply:

- The student's parent is active military, and the student has been transferred into a Colorado school district because of military orders (either living with the parent or living with the guardian while parent is on active military duty), OR
- The student's parent was active military and has been medically discharged or retired, and the student has been transferred into a Colorado school district as a result of this discharge or retirement (valid for one year after medical discharge or retirement), OR
- The student's parent was active military and died on active duty or as a result of an injury sustained on active duty, and the student has been transferred into a Colorado school district as a result of this death (valid for one year after death).



Kindergarten Students Enrolled in a Half-day Kindergarten Program

If a student is retained for a second year of kindergarten due to a Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD) identified by the district, the student is eligible for full-time funding (even if enrolled in a half-day kindergarten program) as long as the student is scheduled for a minimum of 90 semester hours of instructional time in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

Documentation Requirements:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
- For Highly Advanced Gifted/Early Access Students:
 - An Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) dated on or before September 30 indicating the district identified the student for grade acceleration (additional documentation may be necessary in the event the ALP does not contain all required information)
- For students whose parent is/was active military:
 - Enrollment documentation from the previous school for the current school year, AND
 - Copy of active military orders effective as of the applicable count date, OR
 - Copy of medical discharge, retirement papers, or death certificate evidencing cause of death that resulted from being on active duty or from injuries sustained while on active duty dated within one year
- Retained Kindergarten Students:
 - Documentation dated on or before June 30 of the previous school year evidencing that the district notified the student's parent/guardian that the student would be retained, in whole or in part, due to a Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD).
 - Many local boards of education adopted policies ILBC and ILBC-R requiring the written notification
 - Retained kindergarten students with an SRD should have been reported as a retained kindergartner with an SRD in the READ Act data submission during the prior school year.
 - The following are the only assessments approved by the State Board for determining a significant reading deficiency related to the retained kindergarten funding exception: PALS, Acadience Reading, Aimsweb Plus English, Fastbridge, iReady, Istation (Indicators of Progress for Early Reading (ISIP ER) English and Spanish), STAR Early Learning, PALS Español, IDEL (Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura), Aimsweb Plus Spanish, Amplify mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition, mClass Lectura 2022

Helpful Hints

Data Reporting Guidance

- Refer to the Data Pipeline “Student Interchange—Student School Association” [File Layout and Definitions](#) (http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_student) for full descriptions of each at the following location:



The guidelines for coding these students is summarized in the following table:

Kindergarten Student Scenario	Grade Level	Public School Finance Funding Status
Enrolled in a half-day program	006	82 or 94 or 95
Retained (with an SRD) enrolled in a half-day program	006	80 or 91 or 92
Home-school enrolled in half-day or full-day program	006 or 007	85
Enrolled in a full-day program (paying no tuition)	007	80 or 91 or 92
Enrolled in a full-day program (attending part-time)*	007	82 or 94 or 95
Enrolled in a full-day program (paying half-day tuition)	007	82 or 94 or 95
Enrolled in a full-day program (paying full-day tuition)	007	87
Enrolled in a full-day program (does not meet funding criteria)	007	86 or 96

**Students attending a full-day program who are scheduled to attend at least 90, but less than 360, hours in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.*

Reference

[Section 22-7-1207.](#)

[Section 22-54-103\(10\)\(b\)\(I\) and \(II\).](#)

https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a_1262_signed.pdf

http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/snap_read

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt>

1 CCR 301-39(5.05)(2)



Transfer Enrollment Exception Students

What is Unique?

In order to meet the attendance requirement for funding eligibility, students must have established attendance with the district on or before the applicable count date. However, the district may submit a student for funding who begins attending after the count date (but before the end of the [11-day count period](#)) if the student meets one of the transfer enrollment exceptions detailed below. In such cases, **the district will need to provide documentation showing that the student met one of the enrollment exception requirements for funding purposes.**

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

There are three types of transfer scenarios that may allow for students to be included in a district's funded pupil count if reporting school or district attendance is not established until after the applicable count date (but before the end of the 11-day count period). These scenario types are:

Within-District Transfers:

- If a student withdraws from one district school prior to the applicable count date and enrolls in another school within the same district after the applicable count date, the district can include the student in their funded count, if:
 - The student was not enrolled and in attendance with another Colorado public school district as of the applicable count date; and
 - The district has documentation showing the student established attendance at the former district school during the current school year (prior to the applicable count date) and resumed attendance at a new district school (within 30 days following the applicable count date). In this case, the schedule that was in place prior to the applicable count date (i.e., the schedule from the former school) should be used to determine the student's funding eligibility.

Within-State Transfers (from a Colorado public school district):

- A student who transfers into a district (i.e., the "receiving district") from another Colorado public school district (i.e., the "sending district") after the applicable count date, but before the end of the 11-day count period, may be eligible to be included in the receiving district's funded pupil count if:
 - The student establishes enrollment and attendance at the receiving district prior to the end of the 11-day count period, AND
 - The student has a schedule at the receiving district prior to the end of the 11-day count period, AND
 - The student was not eligible to be included for funding by the sending Colorado public school district, AND
 - The student established attendance during the current school year at the sending Colorado public school district.
 - If all of the above conditions are met, the receiving district will need to contact the sending district to obtain documentation demonstrating the student established attendance at the sending district during the current school year.
- Students transferring in after the applicable count date from a home-school setting, private school setting, or other educational setting within Colorado are NOT eligible for funding.



Out-of-State Transfers:

- **Δ** If a student moves to Colorado (from another state or country) within 30 days prior to the applicable count date and enrolls in a district after the applicable count date, but before the end of the 11-day count period, the student may be eligible for funding if:
 - The student establishes enrollment and attendance at the receiving district prior to the end of the 11-day count period, AND
 - The student has a schedule at the receiving district prior to the end of the 11-day count period.
- In this case, the student does NOT need to have established attendance during the current school year. Further, the student may be new to the educational system and is not restricted by the last educational setting (e.g., public school, private school, or home-based educational setting outside of Colorado).
 - The district must provide documentation demonstrating that the student moved to Colorado from another state or country during the current school year.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility prior to the end of the 11-day count period
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation, if it demonstrates that the student enrolled with the district before the end of the 11-day count period.
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the remainder of the 11-day count period), showing that the student established attendance with the district after the applicable count date, but before the end of the 11-day count period
- Individual Student [Schedule](#) (as established prior to the end of the 11-day count period)
- Evidence of Transfer Enrollment Exception
 - Within-District Transfers:
 - Enrollment history that includes enrollment and withdrawal dates for the current school year
 - Student schedules that were in place prior to and after the applicable count date (the schedule that was in place prior to the applicable count date should be used to determine funding eligibility)
 - Attendance documentation showing the student established attendance during the current school year, prior to the applicable count date, and resumed attendance within 30 days following the applicable count date. Attendance documentation is likely to be needed from both district schools.
 - Within-State Transfers:
 - Documentation from the prior Colorado public school district showing that the student established attendance at the “sending district” prior to the applicable count date during the current school year, prior to transferring to the “receiving district”
 - Out-of-State Transfers:
 - Documentation to support that the student moved to Colorado in the period beginning 30 days preceding the applicable count date through the last day of the 11-day count period from another state or country
 - For these students, the district should have in place a process for documenting when the student arrived in Colorado.

Reference

1 301-39(5.04), et seq.



Transition Students (18- to 21-Year-Old Services)

What is Unique?

Transition students are students receiving special education services who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are accessing 18- to 21-year-old services through the school district. Because transition services are designed to meet the individual needs of the student on an IEP, the types of services being delivered may vary by student and/or district. As a result, the way in which districts document funding eligibility (i.e., attendance and scheduled hours) for students receiving 18- to 21-year-old services is likely to be different than documentation provided for general education students.

The following funding eligibility exceptions are common with transition students:

- A student may have met their district's graduation requirements; however, because of their IEP, the student may still be eligible to receive services as well as funding.
- A student may be 21 years old as of the applicable count date, as long as they turned 21 in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

In addition to the [enrollment](#) and [attendance](#) requirements for all students, the following additional considerations apply to this student type:

- Work experience courses for students receiving 18- to 21-year-old services may be used in the determination for funding if 1) the courses are part of the student's goals as described in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 2) if the student has not met the district's minimum graduation requirements.
 - Directly-supported special education service time attributed to work hours (i.e., actual hours in which the transition team staff are on-site or working directly with students) may be used on an "hour-for-hour" basis in determining funding eligibility.
 - Indirectly-supported special education service time attributed to work hours (i.e., actual hours in which the transition team staff are indirectly supporting the student through consultation with the employer about student progress, consultation with a community agency that is providing a work experience opportunity, visiting the job site to observe the student working, etc.) may be used on an "hour-for-hour" basis in determining funding eligibility.
 - Work hours that are not classified as directly- or indirectly-supported cannot be used to determine funding, except under the following conditions: 1) the transition student has not met the district's minimum graduation requirements, AND 2) the transition student is earning credit for the work hours that would apply toward the transition student meeting the minimum graduation requirements (refer to the [Work-Based Learning Experience Course](#) funding requirements for more information).
- Students receiving transition services are eligible to participate in [Concurrent Enrollment](#). These students must meet the same programmatic and funding requirements as all other concurrently enrolled students, including any restrictions that may be applicable to students in their [5th year of high school](#) and beyond.
- Students receiving transition services may participate in [ASCENT](#) if they meet the program's requirements. Additional transitional services may be provided during the student's ASCENT year and



beyond; however, at the completion of the transition student's ASCENT year, the student may NOT enroll in any additional Concurrent Enrollment courses as part of their transition services.

- Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, there are no longer restrictions on the number of eligible students who can participate in the ASCENT program.

Documentation:

In order to determine the appropriate documentation to evidence the funding requirements, districts should know the types and methods of delivery for the transition services being provided.

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation.
 - If a student is 21 years old as of the count date, districts must also provide an IEP service delivery page showing that the service delivery dates encompass the applicable count date.
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
 - Due to the unique nature of the services delivered, attendance documentation generated from the district's student information system may not be adequate. The district will need to determine the appropriate attendance documentation.
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) that encompasses the count date
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
 - Appropriate documentation showing the student's actual scheduled instructional time. The determination of funding level will be based only on the actual time in which the student is scheduled to receive teacher-pupil instruction and/or educational services. The district will need to determine the appropriate documentation to evidence each student's unique schedule.
 - Only those courses for which the district is incurring the cost of the student's tuition may be included as instructional time in the determination of funding level.
 - In the event the district provides an IEP to evidence a student's schedule, the IEP service delivery grid (or ENRICH data reports) should show that the service dates encompass the corresponding count date.
- Transition program calendar and bell schedule

Helpful Hints

- If a transition student's IEP states that the district will provide transportation, this amount of time would not be included in the determination of full- or part-time funding, unless the transportation time is part of the student's instructional day.
 - Transporting students from home to school and school to home is not part of the instructional day. However, once the student is at school, if the instructional day for the transition student includes providing transportation for group activities during the day, then it may be appropriate to include this time in the determination of scheduled instructional time.
 - Generally, "lunch" is not part of the instructional day; however, if part of the transition student's instructional day includes learning how to prepare meals or order at restaurants, and these educational activities are part of the student's instructional day, then it may be appropriate to include this time in the determination of scheduled instructional time.



Reference

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/transition>

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/ta_concurrentenroll

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Truant Students

What is Unique?

As with all other students, students who are at risk of being declared (or already have been declared) habitually truant must meet all general funding requirements, including the [attendance](#) requirement. However, if the student does not attend on, or resume attendance within 30 days following the applicable count date, and the district determines that it is appropriate to file legal action to compel attendance, the student may be eligible for funding.

Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements

Requirements:

The [enrollment](#), [attendance](#), and [scheduling](#) requirements for this student type are the same as for all students. However, in the event a habitually truant student does not establish attendance on or within 30 days following the applicable count date, the student may still be eligible for funding if all of the following apply:

- The student established attendance during the current school year, prior to the applicable count date, and continues to be enrolled as of the applicable count date, and
- The student did not enroll in or transfer to another school or district within the 30 days following the applicable count date, and
- The district filed legal action during the current school year (but no more than 10 school days following the applicable count date) to compel attendance.
 - **Legal action should be a last-resort approach to address the child's truancy and pursued only if a child continues to be habitually truant after the district has created and implemented a plan pursuant to [Section 22-33-107\(3\)](#) to improve the child's attendance.**
 - Districts should evaluate their own truancy policies to determine if legal action is appropriate.
 - Legal action must be filed in the current school year to compel attendance. Prior year documentation will not be accepted.
 - The letter of intent to file truancy addressed to the parents/legal guardians is not considered adequate documentation.

Documentation:

- Evidence of [Enrollment](#) Eligibility
 - This may be evident on the daily attendance documentation
- Daily [Attendance](#) (for the entire 11-day count period)
 - Documentation from the current school year evidencing that the student established attendance in the district prior to the applicable count date, **AND**
 - Truancy documentation evidencing legal action during the current year that has been filed no later than 10 school days following the applicable count date. Examples of legal action include, but are not limited to:
 - A diversion agreement between the court and the student
 - Filing a Petition to Compel Attendance with the court and served with a summons to the student and parent or legal guardian
 - Proof of Service showing that the parent or legal guardian has received the petition and summons



-
- Proof of an ongoing court case showing that the student is not complying with the order to compel attendance and notice to the court was provided no later than 10 school days following the applicable count date
 - A letter of intent to file truancy addressed to the parents/legal guardians is not adequate documentation
- Individual Student [Schedule](#)
-

Reference

[Section 22-33-104\(5\)\(a\).](#)

[Section 22-33-107\(3\).](#)

[Section 22-33-108.](#)

1 CCR 301-39(5.03)(2)(a)

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Appendices

The following appendices provide additional information related to the Student October data collection:

[Appendix A \(Calendar and Bell Schedule Calculations\)](#)

- This section provides instructions for counting the number of calendar days in a year, calculating the average amount of instructional time students must receive in order to meet the full- and part-time funding thresholds, and determining the instructional time provided for each period with a school's bell schedule. This section also provides examples of the above calculations.

[Appendix B \(Duplicate Count\)](#)

- This section provides information about the Duplicate Count process, including an overview of the documentation submission process and examples of common scenarios that may cause students to be included in Duplicate Count.

[Appendix C \(Data Submission Codes Used to Identify Funded Student Types\)](#)

- This table describes the codes used to identify student types within Data Pipeline (using the Student School Association and Student Demographic interchange files).

[Appendix D \(Documentation Checklist\)](#)

- This checklist provides a reference for documentation that must be uploaded during the audit process.



Appendix A: Calendar and Bell Schedule Calculation

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Appendix B: Duplicate Count

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Appendix C: Data Submission Codes Used to Identify Funded Student Types

Student/Course Type	Field	Student Interchange File	Value	Comment
ASCENT	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	01	ASCENT students funded with a current-year ASCENT slot
Blended Learning	Blended Learning Course	Student School Association	1	Brick-and-mortar student enrolled in at least one of these course types during the Fall semester
Concurrent Enrollment	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	02	Students enrolled in concurrent enrollment courses (and not participating in the ASCENT program)
Contractual Education	Non-School Program	Student School Association	03, 04	Students for whom the district is paying tuition to another entity to provide educational services
Detention Center	School Code	Student School Association	Many	Use valid detention center code in school code field. Or 0006 if your district is authorized to use this code
Dropout Recovery	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	08	Students participating in a dropout recovery program offered exclusively at a community college
Early College	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	07	Early college students who are enrolled in postsecondary courses
Expelled	Expelled Education	Student School Association	1	Students receiving services through a program established for expelled students
Foreign Exchange	Country of Parent's Residence for Non-Residence Students	Student School Association	<> "000"	Any value other than "000"
Home-School	Home Based Education	Student School Association	1	Home school students receiving some educational services through the district
HSED	Attends District Funded HSED Program	Student Demographic	1	Students enrolled in a high school equivalency degree (HSED) program



Student/Course Type	Field	Student Interchange File	Value	Comment
Independent Study (Off-Site)	Independent Study Course	Student School Association	1	Student enrolled in at least one of these course types during the Fall semester
ILOP	Innovative Learning Opportunities Pilot	Student School Association	1 or 2	Any student with an ILOP value of 01 or 02
Kindergarten (Under the Age of 5)	Entry Grade Level and Student Date of Birth	Student School Association	006 or 007 (DOB)	Any kindergarten student under the age of 5 as of October 1
Online Schools	Public School Finance Funding Status	Student School Association	91, 92, 94, 95	Students primarily enrolled in a Colorado public Online School.
Online Program - Single-District Online	Non-School Program	Student School Association	01	Students primarily enrolled in a Colorado public school district's Online Program.
P-TECH Schools and Programs	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	15	Students attending a P-TECH school or program in their first 4 years of high school (Years 1-4)
P-TECH Schools and Programs	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	16	Students attending a P-TECH school or program in their fifth or sixth year of high school (Years 5-6)
Supplemental Online	Supplemental Online Course	Student School Association	1	Brick-and-mortar student enrolled in at least one of these course types during the Fall semester
TREP (Year 5)	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	17, 18, 19	Students participating in the TREP program in their 5 th year of high school
TREP (Year 6)	Postsecondary Program	Student School Association	20	Students participating in the TREP program in their 6 th year of high school
Transition	Special Education Transition	Student Demographic	1, 2, 3, 4	Any value other than "0"
Work-Based Learning Experience	Work-Based Learning Opportunity Course	Student School Association	1	Student enrolled in at least one of these course types during the Fall semester



File layout and definitions for the Student Demographic and Student School Association files can be found on [the Data Pipeline Student Interchange](https://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_student) website (https://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_student).

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Appendix D: Documentation Checklist

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Summary of Changes

- The Preschool Students section of the guide has been removed.
- The Blended Learning Initiative pilot has ended; therefore, guidance related to this pilot has been removed from the Guide.
- Direct Teacher-Pupil Instruction has been defined.
- Alternative Teacher-Pupil Instruction has been defined.
- Blended Learning courses have been included as alternative instruction
- Independent Study courses have been included as alternative instruction
- Supplemental Online courses have been included as alternative instruction
- Work-Based Learning courses have been identified as alternative instruction
- The definition of “semester” for the purpose of funding level calculations has changed
- Proof of Colorado Residency documentation requirements have been added to the Independent Study, Supplemental Online, and Work-Based Learning sections of the Guide.
- The requirements for Transfer Enrollment Exception students arriving from out of state have changed.
- The guidance for Online Schools and Programs to determine an instructional time equivalency has been updated.
- To the Enrollment Funding Eligibility section, a requirement was added that schools be authorized to serve students in their respective grades.
- To the Enrollment Funding Eligibility section, a requirement was added that for students whose physical presence is not regularly required at a public school, proof of Colorado residency will be required.
- To the Instructional Time Calculations and Restrictions documentation, modified the requirement for bell schedule documentation.
- To the Instructional Time Calculations and Restrictions documentation, added a requirement that the district provide a transcript or explanatory note for some part-time students.
- To the Instructional Time Calculations and Restrictions documentation, added a requirement to include the Catalog of Courses Using Alternative Education.
- Added the Alternative Teacher-Pupil Instruction Courses section.
- To the Alternative Teacher-Pupil Instruction Courses section, added a proof of Colorado residency requirement that students who do not regularly attend on-site.
- To the ASCENT section, a documentation requirement that includes a college transcript demonstrating programmatic requirements were met.
- To the How to Utilize this Guide section, added “Limitations” as a new section subheader
- To the Contractual Education section, added a documentation requirement for the Annual Assurances of Statutory Compliance for Contracted Services
- To the Detention Center section, modified the attendance documentation requirement.