

Field Analyst Support Team (FAST)
Office of Blended and Online Learning
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**2015 Student October Count Audit Documentation Clarification for
Online and Blending Learning Schools and Programs**

The following guidance is meant to supplement/clarify the requirements and information as provided for in the Student October Count 2015 Audit Resource Guide as they relate to approved online schools/programs that utilize a blended learning model. The resource guide can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/2015studentoctobercountresourceguide>

As of September 2015, there were approximately 28 multi-district and 32 single-district online schools and/or programs that had been approved with such designations by the Colorado Department of Education's Office of Blended and Online Learning.

In many cases, these online schools and/or programs provide a blended learning model. "Blending learning is a formal educational program in which a student learns at least in part through online delivery of content and instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace and at least in part at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home" (Horn and Staker, 2012).

For October Count purposes, any approved single or multi-district online school or program will be subject to the online school/program documentation and funding requirements, regardless of whether or not they also incorporate a blended learning model that allows for optional and/or required "on-site" participation.

DOCUMENTATION

October Count funding documentation for approved online schools/programs includes, but is not limited to:

- Assurance form describing district approved evidence of participation and attendance
- School/Program calendar
- School/Program Bell Schedule
 - Bell Schedule equivalency (for all courses that are primarily online) regardless of whether the student is logging into the course from an on-site or off-site location
 - Bell schedule for all non-online courses in which the student is attending the course on-site

In addition to the documentation noted above, the online school/program must also provide the following documentation, at a minimum, for all students whose primary enrollment is at the approved online school/program:

- Proof of Residency documentation
 - This is required even if the student is participating in a blended learning model program/school in which a portion of his/her education is provided for on-site (optional or required).
- Evidence of Participation/Attendance (as outlined in the Assurance form)
- Student Schedule
 - This schedule should note both online and non-online (on-site) courses.

FUNDING

Funding requirements are the same for online students as they are for all other non-online (i.e. brick and mortar) students:

- Part time funding = 90+ but less than 360 semester hours of teacher-pupil instruction and contact time
- Full time funding = 360+ semester hours of teacher-pupil instruction and contact time

In situations where an approved online school or program utilizes a blended learning model, the determination of funding eligibility is based on the individual student's schedule.

- All online courses will be evaluated based on the bell schedule equivalency as established by the school/program that states the average number of minutes per day or week required to earn an equivalent number of credits in a traditional classroom setting.
 - The equivalency bell schedule will be applied to all online courses, including those in which the student is primarily accessing the course on-site, regardless of whether or not they have the option to do so from home or are required to do so from an on-site location.
- All non-online/on-site courses will be evaluated using the "brick and mortar"/"on-site" bell schedule.

In situations where students are required to attend on-site, and thus have a “set” schedule as to when they will attend on-site, the funding eligibility will be based on the applicable bell schedule- depending on the type of course (online or non-online/on-site only).

Example 1:

A student is enrolled in an approved single-district online school that utilizes a blended learning model. The student is scheduled for 5 online courses, but is required to attend Monday through Friday at an on-site location. In this situation, the student’s funding determination will be dependent on his/her individual schedule which includes 5 online courses only. As such, the bell schedule equivalency for the online courses will be used to determine funding eligibility, rather than the scheduled days/times on-site.

Example 2:

A student is enrolled in an approved single-district online school that utilizes a blended learning model. The student is scheduled for 3 online courses and 2 non-online/on-site only courses. Even though the student is scheduled to attend on-site Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for all 5 courses, when determining funding eligibility, the bell schedule equivalency will be used for the 3 online courses, and only the on-site bell schedule times associated with the 2 non-online/on-site courses will be used for these 2 courses. All other required on-site time set aside for the student to work on his/her 3 online courses would NOT be included in the determination for funding.

SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE STUDENTS

In the event an approved online school or program offers courses to students who are not primarily enrolled in their approved online school or program (i.e. students whose primary enrollment is at a district brick and mortar school), each student’s schedule will be evaluated for funding utilizing the bell schedule equivalency for the applicable online courses, and the brick and mortar school bell schedule for those non-online courses that are taken on site at that school location. Please refer to the “Supplemental Online Students” section of the Student October Count Audit Resource Guide for 2015 which can be found at the following url:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/2015studentoctobercountresourceguide>

****If your approved online school or program no longer meets the statutory definition of an online school or program, please contact the Office of Blended and Online Learning to discuss your options.***

Multi-District Online Charter Schools

- [College Pathways \(The Classical Academy\)](#)
- [Colorado Digital Academy \(CODA\)](#)
- [Colorado Virtual Academy \(COVA\)](#)
- [Elevate Academy](#)
- [Guided Online Academic Learning \(GOAL\) Academy](#)
- [Hope Online Learning Academy CO-OP](#)

Multi-District Online Schools

- [Academy Calvert](#)
- [Academy Online High School](#)
- [ACHIEVE Online](#)
- [Boulder Universal](#)
- [Branson School Online](#)
- [Colorado Connections Academy](#)
- [Colorado Preparatory Academy](#)
- [Denver Online High School](#)
- [eDCSD Colorado Cyber School](#)
- [Edison Academy](#)
- [Engage Online Academy](#)
- [Great Plains Academy](#)
- [Insight School of Colorado](#)
- [Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy](#)
- [Monte Vista Online Academy](#)
- [Mountain View Virtual](#)
- [Pikes Peak Online School](#)
- [PSD Global Academy](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Digital Academy](#)
- [Springs Studio for Academic Excellence](#)
- [Southwest Colorado eSchool \(San Juan BOCES\)](#)
- [Vilas Online](#)

Single District Online Schools

- [70 Online](#) (Pueblo 70)
- [APS Online](#) (Aurora Public Schools)
- [BOLT Academy](#) (School District 27J)
- [Cañon Online Academy](#) (Fremont RE-1)
- [Center Virtual Academy](#)(Center)
- [Grande River Virtual Academy](#) (Mesa County #51)
- [Holyoke Alternative School](#) (Holyoke School District RE-1J)
- [Peak Virtual Academy](#) (Montrose)
- [St. Vrain Online Global Academy](#) (St Vrain Valley RE 1J)
- [World Academy](#) (Eagle County)

Single District Online Programs

- [Clear Creek Online Academy](#) (Clear Creek School District RE-1)
- [Colorado Courseware A+nyWhere Learning System](#)(Garfield 16)
- [D3 My Way](#) (Widefield)
- [Del Norte School Blended Learning](#) (Del Norte)
- [Extended Learning Program](#) (Colorado Springs 11)
- [Lester Arnold Online](#) (Adams 14)
- [LPS Voyager](#) (Littleton)
- [North Conejos Alternative Program](#) (N. Conejos)
- [PCHS Online](#) (Platte Canyon RE-1)
- [Redirection Evening Program](#) (Littleton)
- [RHS Online](#) (Weld RE 5J Johnstown-Milliken)
- [Ridge Academy](#) (Pueblo 60)
- [South Park Online](#) (Park County RE-2)
- [Thompson Online](#) (Thompson School District)
- [Tigers Online Program](#) (East Otero)
- [Virtual Village - Lake George Charter School](#) (Park County RE-2)
- [Weld Central Online](#) (Weld County RE3J)
- [Westminster Virtual Academy](#) (Adams 50)
- [Woodland Park Online Program](#) (Woodland Park District RE-2)