

Funding Opportunity

[Intent to Apply Due](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/603921df84ad49b582ad3cb8a8a74589)**: Monday, January 8, 2024, by 11:59 pm**

Completion of the Intent to Apply is strongly encouraged but not required.

[Applications Due](https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com): **Monday, January 15, 2024, by 4 pm**

Application will open in GAINS on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, and close on Monday, January 15, 2024.

|  |
| --- |
| Automatic Enrollment in Advanced CoursesGrant Program Pursuant to SB 19-059 - John W. Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program |

EDAC approval stamp

**Program Questions:**

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**Note:** The following version of the application is intended as a reference document for instructions and grant application planning purposes.

**Applications for the Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses program must be submitted through GAINS at:**[**https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com**](https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com/)**.**

Submission of application materials either in hard copy or via

e-mail will not be accepted.

The application window will open in GAINS on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, and will close on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 4 pm.

Applicants are encouraged to use this document to plan their responses for entry into the system when it opens. CDE will use the list of those who’ve completed the Intent to Apply to provide additional guidance in accessing GAINS and the Auto Enrollment application.

[More information about GAINS is available on CDE’s website.](https://www.cde.state.co.us/gains)

**Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program**

**Intent to Apply Due: Monday, January 8, 2024, 11:59 pm**

**Applications Due: Monday, January 15, 2024, by 4 pm**

# Introduction

All students deserve the opportunity to learn higher-level content, and students who have access to a rigorous curriculum perform better across multiple measures, including graduating high school and completing higher education. Traditionally, disadvantaged minorities and low-income students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds who perform well in school do not enroll in advanced classes at the same rate as their peers, regardless of preparedness. High school Graduation Guidelines adopted by the Colorado state board of education require students to demonstrate competency in math and English scores to graduate, which can include achieving a sufficient score on an advanced placement or international baccalaureate exam. A school's or school district's course placement policies and decisions impact a student's opportunity to reach their full academic potential.

See **Appendix A** for the Rules for Administration of this program.

# Purpose

The John W. Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program is intended to increase the number of students enrolled in advanced courses for subjects in which the student has demonstrated proficiency.

"Advanced course" means an advanced course of study in any subject, including an Advanced Placement course; an International Baccalaureate course; or a course designated by a school district as an honors, gifted, or accelerated course.

# Eligible Applicants

Local Education Providers (LEPs) are eligible to apply for this opportunity. An eligible LEP is:

* A School District (a school operating within the district may not also submit a standalone application);
* A School (only if the authorizing district does not intend to apply)
* A Board of Cooperative Services (BOCES);
* A Charter School authorized by a School District; or
* A Charter School authorized by the Charter School Institute.

An application from an individual school must be submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer of the school (if the authorizing district does not intend to apply) and, if the school is not a charter school, the school must notify the superintendent of the authorized school district of the application. The school’s district will be the fiscal agent, if funded.

A charter school’s authorizer will be the fiscal agent, if funded.

A Local Education Provider is eligible for the grant program if the LEP automatically enrolls each student entering the ninth grade or higher in an advanced course based on any of the following criteria:

1. The student achieved a score that is equivalent to, or exceeds, demonstrating proficiency on the state assessment that was administered pursuant to section 22-7-1006.3 for the preceding academic year, referred to in this section as an "eligible score", as follows:
   1. Students who achieve an eligible score in a subject related to mathematics must be automatically enrolled in advanced courses in mathematics;
   2. Students who achieve an eligible score in subjects relating to reading and writing must be enrolled in advanced courses in English, social studies, humanities, or other related subjects; and
   3. Students who achieve an eligible score in a subject related to science or social studies must be automatically enrolled in advanced courses in science or social studies; or
2. Any other measure, applied to all students enrolled in a Local Education Provider, that, in the judgment of the Local Education Provider, is an indicator that a student demonstrates the ability to succeed in an advanced course.

# Available Funds and Duration of Grant

Approximately $220,000 is available for the 2023-2024 school year. Grants will be awarded at the end of the 2023-2024 school year, and grantees will have the entirety of the following school year, 2024-2025, to expend the funds. Additional grant funding for subsequent years will be contingent upon annual appropriations by the State Legislature, and upon grantees meeting all grant, fiscal, and reporting requirements. Funded applicants for the 2023-2024 school year are not guaranteed any additional funding beyond the 2023-2024 year at this time. Funds must be expended by **June 30, 2025**.

The Department will award funds based on the following formula:

1. The Department will use the aggregate information provided by each applicant eligible Local Education Providers under Rule 3.03(2) to determine an overall average cost per student.
2. The Department will apply the average calculated in Rule 3.04(1)(a) to each eligible Local Education Provider by multiplying the overall average cost per student times the number of students served.
3. The Department will award an amount to each eligible Local Education Provider based on the number of students and average cost per student served under Rule 3.04(1)(b).
   1. If the total funding requested in an eligible Local Education Provider’s application is less than the award determined under Rule 3.04(1)(c), then the Local Education Provider’s award will be equal to the total funding requested in its application.
4. Additionally, supplemental funding based on the number of grade levels served may be included in the award.
5. If the total amount appropriated by the General Assembly in a given fiscal year is insufficient to fully fund awards as determined under Rule 3.04(1)(c), the Department will reduce each eligible Local Education Provider’s award by a proportional amount.

# Allowable Use of Funds

A Local Education Provider that receives a grant under the program shall use the funding as follows:

Allowable services or activities include:

* Expanding the number of advanced courses offered in the Local Education Provider, including the use of technology to increase the number of advanced courses offered;
* Incentivizing teachers to teach advanced courses, including teacher training and professional development in areas relating to advanced course instruction;
* Developing advanced course curriculum; or
* Expanding parent and student engagement with the Local Education Provider as it relates to advanced course availability and enrollment and student success in advanced courses.

A Local Education Provider that is awarded a grant **may not** use the grant money for the purpose of hiring new teachers.

# Evaluation and Reporting

Each Local Education Provider that receives funding through the Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program must submit an annual report to the Department that includes the following information on or before **June 30, 2025.**

* The number of students enrolled in advanced courses before and after implementation of the grant program;
* The number of students automatically enrolled in advanced courses by the Local Education Provider before and after implementation of the grant program;
* Demographic information of students automatically enrolled in advanced courses, including grade, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic information before and after implementation of the grant program;
* The number of students in grades 4-8 automatically enrolled in advanced courses before and after implementation of the grant program if applicable; and
* The ways in which grant dollars were utilized.

# Data Privacy

CDE takes seriously its obligation to protect the privacy of student and educator Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected, used, shared, and stored. PII will not be collected through Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program. All program evaluation data will be collected in the aggregate and will be used, shared, and stored in compliance with CDE’s privacy and security policies and procedures.

Please note: Documents submitted must not contain any personally identifiable student or educator information including names, identification numbers, or anything that could identify an individual. All data should be referenced/included in the aggregate and the aggregate counts should be redacted to remove small numbers under n=16 for students or n=5 for educators.

# Application Assistance and Intent to Apply

A recorded application training webinar will be posted on [CDE’s Automatic Enrollment webpage](https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/autoenrollment) in early November 2023.

If interested in applying for this funding opportunity, complete the [Intent to Apply](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/603921df84ad49b582ad3cb8a8a74589) by **Monday, January 8, 2024, at 11:59 pm**. Although strongly encouraged, completion of the Intent to Apply is not a required component of the application process. Completing the Intent to Apply assists CDE in knowing who needs access to the application in GAINS and providing access guidance, securing a sufficient number of peer reviewers, and a is a way to communicate important updates with potential applicants.

# Review Process and Timeline

Applications will be reviewed by CDE staff and peer reviewers to ensure they contain all required components. Applicants will be notified of final award status no later than **Wednesday, March 15, 2024.**

**Note:** This is a competitive process – applicants must meet all rubric criteria to be approved for funding. Applications that do not meet all criteria may be asked to submit revisions that would bring the application up to a fundable level. There is no guarantee that applying will result in funding or funding at the requested level. All award decisions are final. Applicants that do not meet the qualifications may reapply for future grant opportunities.

# Submission Process and Deadline

Applications must be completed and submitted through [https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com](https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com/) by **Monday, January 15, 2024, by 4 pm.** Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Application materials are available for download on [CDE’s Automatic Enrollment webpage](https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/autoenrollment).

# Required Elements

The elements outlined below must be completed to assure consistent application of the evaluation criteria. See evaluation rubric for specific selection criteria needed in Part II (page 9).

Part I: Applicant Information and Program Assurances

Part II: Narrative and Budget

**Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program**

**Intent to Apply Due: Monday, January 8, 2024, 11:59 pm**

**Applications Due: Monday, January 15, 2024, by 4 pm**

Applicants will complete their application at <https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com/>.

Applications will be accepted in GAINS from January 2 – January 15, 2024, 4 pm.

# Part I: Applicant Information and Program Assurances

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Authorized Representative Information | | | |
| **Name:** |  | **Title:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Program Contact Information** | | | |
| **Name:** |  | **Title:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Fiscal Manager Information** | | | |
| **Name:** |  | | |
| **Telephone:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |

# Program Assurances

**Applicants will agree to the below Assurances within the CSE application in GAINS.**

**An upload of this document is not required.**

The applicant hereby applies for and, if awarded, accepts the state funds requested in this application. In consideration of the receipt of these grant funds, the applicant agrees that the General Assurances form for all state funds and the terms therein are specifically incorporated by reference in this application. The applicant also certifies that all program and pertinent administrative requirements will be met. In addition, grantees that accept **Automatic Enrollment in Advances Courses Grant Program** funding agree to the following assurances:

1. The grantee will annually provide the Colorado Department of Education the evaluation information required in the End-of-Year Report (see **Appendix A: 3.06 Reporting Requirements**) of the Request for Applications.
2. The grantee will work with and provide requested data to CDE for Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program within the time frames specified.
3. The grantee will not discriminate against anyone regarding race, gender, national origin, color, disability, or age.
4. Funds will be used to supplement and not supplant any funds currently being used to provide services, and grant dollars will be administered by the appropriate fiscal agent.
5. Funded projects will maintain appropriate fiscal and program records and fiscal audits of this program will be conducted by the grantees as a part of their regular audits.
6. If any findings of misuse of these funds are discovered, project funds will be returned to CDE.
7. The grantee will maintain sole responsibility for the project even though subcontractors may be used to perform certain services.
8. The grantee has automatically enrolled all eligible students into advanced courses based on the criteria in 3.02(1) and will use grant funds solely for the approved use as stated in 3.05. This assurance will be used to verify eligibility for the program.

**Fraud, Waste and Abuse**

Recipients of grant funds are responsible for taking steps to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse. Fraud Waste and Abuse can come in many forms, such as:

* Embezzlement, bribery, or other public corruption involving federal or state funds;
* Serious mismanagement involving federal or state programs or funds;
* Theft or misuse of Federal student aid to include knowledge of fraud, waste, or abuse involving a financial aid administrator or other entity official(s), or knowledge of fraud, waste, or abuse involving a student loan servicer or collection agency;
* Knowledge that your entity is not complying with regulations or laws involving Federal student aid or other federal or state program or operation requirements;
* Conflicts of interest-violation of arm’s length agreements;
* Contract and procurement irregularities;
* Theft or abuse of government property;
* Employee misconduct; or
* Ethics violations by officials.

Entities are required to have a procedure or methodology for timely reporting, in writing, of any noted violations that may potentially affect the state or federal award. (2CFR200.113)

1. Upon signature below, the applicant certifies there are sufficient internal controls in place to reduce or eliminate the possibility of fraud, waste and abuse with these, or any funds within their agency, and if an instance occurs. If awarded, the Awardee (applicant) will notify CDE in writing.

**Conflict of Interest**

The applicant hereby certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, there are no present or currently planned interests (financial, contractual, organizational, or otherwise) relating to the work to be performed under the contract or grant resulting from this award that would create any actual or potential conflict of interest (or apparent conflicts of interest) (including conflicts of interest for immediate family members: spouses, parents, children) that would impinge on its ability to render impartial, technically sound, and objective assistance or advice or result in it being given an unfair competitive advantage. In this clause, the term “potential conflict” means reasonably foreseeable conflict of interest. The applicant further certifies that it has and will continue to exercise due diligence in identifying and removing or mitigating, to the Government's or Colorado Department of Education’s satisfaction, such conflict of interest (or apparent conflict of interest).

1. Upon signature below, the applicant certifies there are sufficient internal controls in place to reduce or eliminate the possibility of any conflicts of interest with these, or any funds within their agency. If awarded, the Awardee (applicant) will notify CDE in writing. (2CFR200.112)

The Colorado Department of Education may terminate a grant award upon thirty days’ notice if it is deemed by CDE that the applicant is not fulfilling the requirements of the funded program as specified in the approved project application, or if the program is generating less than satisfactory results.

Project modifications and changes in the approved budget must be requested in writing and be approved in writing by CDE before modifications are made to the expenditures. Please contact Sondra Vela ([Vela\_S@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Vela_S@cde.state.co.us), 720-202-5853) and Alena Barczak ([Barczak\_A@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Barczak_A@cde.state.co.us), 303-548-8427) for any modifications.

Approvals for this grant must be captured in GAINS from the following personnel:

* Applicant Authorized Representative
* Applicant Fiscal Manager

**Note:** For Charter School applicants, the above personnel must be from your authorizing district or CSI.

# Part II: Narrative and Budget

Responses should be completed in the online application form. Please note, the online form will not save works in progress. Applicants may find it useful to compose answers in a separate document and copy them into the form.

**Narrative Responses:**

1. Please provide background and context regarding the LEP and the student population it serves, including any gaps or barriers that may exist for a) students to access advanced courses, especially students from traditionally underserved populations, and/or for b) the LEP to provide advanced course programming.

[Not to exceed 500 words/2,500 characters with spaces]

1. Describe the LEP’s existing advanced courses and any planned advanced courses, including courses that may be implemented with money received from the grant program.  
   [Not to exceed 500 words/2,500 characters with spaces]
2. Detail the LEP’s plan for automatically enrolling students into advanced courses, including the costs associated with implementing its plan, the number of students it expects to automatically enroll in advanced courses, and the grade levels it expects to serve through its plan.  
   [Not to exceed 500 words/2,500 characters with spaces]
3. Describe how the LEP will use any grant awarded consistent with the requirements of Rule 3.05 (see **Appendix A**).  
   [Not to exceed 500 words/2,500 characters with spaces]
4. Describe any additional support systems that the LEP intends to implement to ensure the success of the eligible students who will be automatically enrolled in advanced coursework.  
   [Not to exceed 500 words/2,500 characters with spaces]

Complete your proposed program budget in GAINS.

# Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program

# Evaluation Rubric

CDE Use Only

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Application Criteria** | **Met** | **Did Not Meet** |
| 1. Does the LEP currently have an automatic enrollment program in place? | Yes | No |
| 1. Please provide background and context regarding the LEP and the student population it serves, including any gaps or barriers that may exist for a) students to access advanced courses, especially students from traditionally underserved populations, and/or for b) the LEP to provide advanced course programming. |  |  |
| 1. Describe the LEP’s existing advanced courses and any planned advanced courses, including courses that may be implemented with money received from the grant program. |  |  |
| 1. Detail the LEP’s plan for automatically enrolling students into advanced courses, including the costs associated with implementing its plan, the number of students it expects to automatically enroll in advanced courses, and the grade levels it expects to serve through its plan. |  |  |
| 1. Describe how the LEP will use any grant awarded consistent with the requirements of Rule 3.05 (see **Appendix A**). |  |  |
| 1. Describe any additional support systems that the LEP intends to implement to ensure the success of the eligible students who will be automatically enrolled in advanced coursework. |  |  |
| 1. Applicant completed and submitted Budget Workbook. |  |  |

# Appendix A: Rules of Administration

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Colorado State Board of Education**

**1 CCR 301-108 RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE JOHN W. BUCKNER AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT IN ADVANCED COURSES GRANT PROGRAM**

**1.00 STATEMENT AND BASIS OF PURPOSE**

The statutory basis for these rules is found in section 22-95.5-201 et. seq C.R.S. The John W. Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program is intended to increase the number of students enrolled in advanced courses for subjects in which the student has demonstrated proficiency.

**2.00 DEFINITIONS**

2.01 "Advanced course" means an advanced course of study in any subject, including an Advanced Placement course; an International Baccalaureate course; or a course designated by a school district as an honors, gifted, or accelerated course.

2.02 "Department" means the department of education created and existing pursuant to section 24-1-115.

2.03 "Grant program" means the John W. Buckner automatic enrollment in advanced courses grant program created in section 22-95.5-202.

2.04 “Eligible score” means score that is equivalent to, or exceeds, demonstrating proficiency on the state assessment that was administered pursuant to section 22-7-1006.3.

2.05 “Local Education Provider" means a public school as described in section 22-1-101, a school district, or a board of cooperative services created pursuant to article 5 of this title 22.

2.06 "Parent" means a student's biological parent, adoptive parent, or legal guardian.

2.07 "Rural school district" means a school district in Colorado that the Department determines is rural based on the size of the district, the distance from the nearest large urban/urbanized area, and having a student enrollment of approximately 6,500 students or fewer.

2.08 "School district" means any public school district organized under the laws of Colorado. “School district" does not include a local college district.

2.09 "State board" means the state board of education created and existing pursuant to section 1 of article IX of the state constitution.

**3.00 APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**3.01 Application Timeline**

3.01(1) Annually, based on available appropriations, the Department will publish a detailed application timeline. Applications will be due no later than January 15 of each calendar year.

3.01(1)(a) The Department will notify Local Education Providers of the detailed application timeline twice within three months prior to the release of the application in the first year, and at least once in each consecutive year.

3.01(2) The Department will announce grants awards no later than April 1 of each calendar year.

3.01(3) The Department will release a simplified application for rural school districts that will prepopulate any available data related to student eligibility.

**3.02 Eligibility Requirements**

3.02(1) A Local Education Provider is eligible for the grant program if the Local Education Provider automatically enrolls each student entering the ninth grade or higher in an advanced course based on any of the following criteria:

3.02(1)(a) The student achieved an eligible score for the preceding academic year, as follows:

3.02(1)(a)(i) Students who achieve an eligible score in a subject related to mathematics must be automatically enrolled in advanced courses in mathematics;

3.02(1)(a)(ii) Students who achieve an eligible score in subjects relating to reading and writing must be enrolled in advanced courses in English, social studies, humanities, or other related subjects; and

3.02(1)(a)(iii) Students who achieve an eligible score in a subject related to science or social studies must be automatically enrolled in advanced courses in science or social studies; or

3.02(1)(b) Any other measure, applied to all students enrolled in a Local Education Provider, that, in the judgment of the Local Education Provider, is an indicator that a student demonstrates the ability to succeed in an advanced course.

3.02(2) In addition to the requirements in Rule 3.02(1), an eligible Local Education Provider is encouraged to use automatic enrollment for courses in subjects not listed above.

3.02(3) In addition to the requirements in Rule 3.02(1), an eligible Local Education Provider is encouraged to automatically enroll each student entering the fourth through eighth grade in advanced courses.

3.02(4) If a school district submits an application and is eligible for a grant, a school operating within that district may not submit an application. If a school district does not apply, an individual school within the district may apply if an application is submitted by the chief administrative officer and, if the school is not a charter school, the school notifies the superintendent of the school district of the school’s application.

3.02(5) An eligible Local Education Provider shall permit a parent of a student to remove the student from an advanced course in which the student has been automatically enrolled. A Local Education Provider may permit a parent of a student to exempt the student from any automatic enrollment in advanced courses.

**3.03 Application Requirements**

An application submitted by a Local Education Provider shall include the following:

3.03(1) A description of the Local Education Provider's existing advanced courses and any planned advanced courses, including courses that may be implemented with money received from the grant program;

3.03(2) The Local Education Provider's plan for automatically enrolling students into advanced courses, including the costs associated with implementing its plan, the number of students it expects to automatically enroll in advanced courses, and the grade levels it expects to serve through its plan;

3.03(3) A description of how the Local Education Provider will use any grant awarded consistent with the requirements of Rule 3.05;

3.03(4) A description of any additional support systems that the Local Education Provider intends to implement to ensure the success of the eligible students who have been automatically enrolled in advanced coursework; and

3.03(5) An assurance that the eligible Local Education Provider has automatically enrolled all eligible students into advanced courses based on the criteria in 3.02(1), and will use grant funds solely for the approved use as stated in 3.05. This assurance will be used to verify eligibility for the program.

**3.04 Grant Awards**

3.04(1) The Department will award funds based on the following formula:

3.04(1)(a) The Department will use the aggregate information provided by each applicant eligible Local Education Providers under Rule 3.03(2) to determine an overall average cost per student.

3.04(1)(b) The Department will apply the average calculated in Rule 3.04(1)(a) to each eligible Local Education Provider by multiplying the overall average cost per student times the number of students served.

3.04(1)(c) The Department will award an amount to each eligible Local Education Provider based on the number of students and average cost per student served under Rule 3.04(1)(b)

3.04(1)(c)(i) If the total funding requested in an eligible Local Education Provider’s application is less than the award determined under Rule 3.04(1)(c), then the Local Education Provider’s award will be equal to the total funding requested in its application.

3.04(1)(d) Additionally, supplemental funding based on the number of grade levels served may be included in the award.

3.04(1)(e) If the total amount appropriated by the General Assembly in a given fiscal year is insufficient to fully fund awards as determined under Rule 3.04(1)(c), the Department will reduce each eligible Local Education Provider’s award by a proportional amount.

**3.05 Use of Incentives**

3.05(1) A Local Education Provider that receives a grant under the program shall use the funding for:

3.05(1)(a) Expanding the number of advanced courses offered in the Local Education Provider, including the use of technology to increase the number of advanced courses offered;

3.05(1)(b) Incentivizing teachers to teach advanced courses, including teacher training and professional development in areas relating to advanced course instruction;

3.05(1)(c) Developing advanced course curriculum; or

3.05(1)(d) Expanding parent and student engagement with the Local Education Provider as it relates to advanced course availability and enrollment and student success in advanced courses.

3.05(2) A Local Education Provider that is awarded a grant may not use the grant money for the purpose of hiring new teachers.

**3.06 Reporting Requirements**

3.06(1) A Local Education Provider that receives an award from the grant program must submit an annual report to the Department that includes the following information:

3.06(1)(a) The number of students enrolled in advanced courses before and after implementation of the grant program;

3.06(1)(b) The number of students automatically enrolled in advanced courses by the Local Education Provider before and after implementation of the grant program;

3.06(1)(c) Demographic information of students automatically enrolled in advanced courses, including grade, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic information before and after implementation of the grant program;

3.06(1)(d) The number of students in grades 4-8 automatically enrolled in advanced courses before and after implementation of the grant program if applicable; and

3.06(1)(e) The ways in which grant dollars were utilized.