COLORADO

Department of Education

ASCENT Program
2019 October Count Student Coding

Rebecca McRee
Audit Supervisor
School Finance and Operations Division
303-866-6805
mcree_r@cde.state.co.us

Genevieve Hale
Senior Data Analyst/Statistician
Information Management Services
303-866-6970
hale_g@cde.state.co.us

Mary Anne Hunter
Postsecondary Pathways Coordinator
Office of Postsecondary Readiness
(303) 866-6598
Hunter_Mary@cde.state.co.us

Funding & Documentation

Carry Forward ASCENT Slot Timeline

- **January 2019:** CDE determines whether all <u>current year </u>ASCENT slots were used during previous October Count

- **By April 2019:** CDE notifies districts with carry forward slots for the <u>upcoming budget year</u>

- **January 2020:** CDE determines the number of ASCENT carry forward slots <u>from the prior budget year </u>must be repaid

- **April 2020** CDE notifies districts the amount they must repay for unused carry forward ASCENT slots <u>from the prior budget year</u>

Funding/Documentation Requirements

- **ASCENT Cooperative Agreement**
  - For the corresponding school year between the district and the IHE

- **Enrollment**
  - Student must be enrolled with the district as of the pupil enrollment count date

Funding/Documentation Requirements

- **Attendance**

- **Beginning w/2019-20 districts/charter schools will <u>no longer be required</u> to provide attendance verification for postsecondary courses taken off-site at the IHE**

  <u>Section 22-54-103(10)(h) (as amended by SB 19 -176)</u>

  - (I) For the 2019-20 budget year and each budget year thereafter, with regard to a pupil who is simultaneously enrolled in a district or institute charter school and in one or more postsecondary courses, a district or institute charter school must submit evidence of:

    A. Enrollment in the district or institute charter school and evidence, as provided in state board rule, of attendance for any secondary courses the pupil is enrolled in; <u>and</u>

    B. Enrollment in one or more postsecondary courses, by submitting evidence, as described in state board rule, only of the district's or institute charter school's nonrefundable obligation to pay the student share of tuition for the postsecondary course on behalf of the pupil.

    (II) The state board by rule shall specify the number of secondary and postsecondary course credit hours that constitute full-time and part-time membership.

Attendance Verification

Starting with 19/20, IHE attendance is no longer required for postsecondary courses. In these cases, the district will need to show that:

- **The student was enrolled with the district as of the pupil enrollment count date**

- **The student had a schedule as of the pupil enrollment count date that lists the courses the student was scheduled to take and complete during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date**

- **The District paid its nonrefundable obligation of the student share of tuition directly to the IHE**
  - **Verification as to the number of credits for which the district paid (to determine funding level eligibility)**
    - **3-11 credits = part-time**
    - **12+ credits = full-time**

- **The District had a cooperative agreement with the IHE**

Funding/Documentation Requirements (cont.)

- **Credit Hour Verification**
  - Funding eligibility for ASCENT students is determined by the number of college credit hours into which the student is enrolled as of the pupil enrollment count date
    - Part-Time Funding: 3-11 semester credit hours
    - Full-Time Funding: 12+ semester credit hours
      - Homeschool students enrolled in the ASCENT program are only eligible for a maximum of part-time funding
- **Tuition Payment Verification**
  - Documentation that shows the district paid the tuition cost for all ASCENT semester credit hours directly to the IHE

Funding/Documentation Requirements (cont.)

- **High School Transcript**
  - Transcript should be generated during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
    - Student cannot have already graduated
    - Student should have previously completed at least 12 semester credit hours at an IHE (and these should be reflected on the transcript)
    - Student should be in his/her 5th year of high school

Question from the Field

We have a student who is signed up to complete a concurrent enrollment course in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date, but the course is not scheduled to start until after the pupil enrollment count date. Is the student eligible for funding?

Enrollment

- **Student must be enrolled w/district as of the pupil enrollment count date.**

Scheduled Hours/Credits

- **As long as the student is scheduled into a course <u>as of the pupil enrollment count date</u>, and that course is scheduled to be completed during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date, it can be used in the funding determination for the student.**

Tuition Payment Verification

- **District must pay the non-refundable obligation of student's share of tuition.**

Question from the Field

We have students who are taking concurrent enrollment courses through the Institution of Higher Education that follow an online and/or hybrid class structure. Is the student eligible for funding, and if so, what type of documentation do we need?

- **Any course taken through an IHE in which students are receiving both high school and college credit, AND the district has a cooperative agreement with the IHE and pays tuition directly to the IHE per the agreement will be evaluated as any other concurrent enrollment course (e.g., based on credit hours).**
  - **Full-time funding = 12+ college credit hours**
  - **Part-time funding = 3-11 college credit hours**

Question from the Field

- What if an instructor cancels class during the 11 day count period?

- What if an instructor does not take daily attendance?

- What if our student does not get completed attendance forms submitted to the district shortly after the 11 day count period?

- **No longer relevant as attendance verification is not required for postsecondary courses taken off-site at the IHE.**

Can ASCENT funding be used to pay for concurrent enrollment courses taken by ASCENT students during the summer term?

Districts receive ASCENT funding based on what a student's schedule was as of the pupil enrollment count date FOR the semester of the pupil enrollment count date. Therefore, if a district allows an ASCENT student to take courses during the summer, the district should be aware that the credit hours taken by the student during the summer cannot be used to evidence scheduled credit hours in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

Data Reporting

Data Reporting for ASCENT

- Data Reporting for ASCENT students can be tricky

- Requires coordination between Student End of Year and Student October Reporting.

- Student End of Year 2018-2019
    - Students planning to participate in ASCENT the following year:
    - Student School Association File:
        - ENTRY GRADE LEVEL = 120 (12th Grade Students)
        - RETENTION CODE = 2
    - Student Demographic File:
        - POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT = 00

Data Reporting for ASCENT

- **Student October Data Reporting 2019-2020**
  - Student Demographics File:
    - POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT = 01, 09, 10
      - 01 – ASCENT Current Year
      - 09 – ASCENT Carryforward full-time
      - 10 – ASCENT Carryforward part-time
  - Student School Association File:
    - RETENTION CODE = 0
    - NON-SCHOOL PROGRAM = 04 (Third Party Contract w/ IHE)
    - PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE STATUS
      - Carryforward = 87 (Non-Eligible, Tuition)
      - Current Year = 80, 82 (Full-time and part-time)
        - Current Year Students should be coded to receive funding

- If district is using a ½ carry forward and ½ current year slots to fund a student full-time:
  - RETENTION CODE = 0
  - NON-SCHOOL PROGRAM = 04 (Third Party Contract w/ IHE)
  - PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE STATUS = 82

Data Reporting for ASCENT

Student October Cognos Reports

- District Summary of Postsecondary Programs

- This report will show the number of ASCENT slots and ASCENT Carryforward slots assigned by CDE

- The number of slots used and the difference

- Can only be created once a Student October snapshot has been created

ASCENT Student Graduation Rate Reporting
HB17-1294

... a qualified student who is an ASCENT program participant shall be counted in the enrolling school district's or institute charter school's graduation rate <u>in the school year in which the student completes the school district's or institute charter school's minimum high school graduation requirements.</u>

- Effective with the 2017-18 school year
- Will not change the existing ASCENT requirements re HS diploma:
  - cannot be **dated** until student has completed the ASCENT(5th) year;
  - cannot be **conferred** to student until 5th year has been completed;
  - **Transcript** grad date must reflect when 5th year was completed.

- Districts/Institute Charter Schools can decide to allow ASCENT student to participate in regular grad ceremonies without receiving an official diploma

- ASCENT appropriations are made to CDE for grade levels K-12; therefore ASCENT student must still be classified as high school student in 5th year to be eligible to receive ASCENT funding.

ASCENT Student Graduation Rate Reporting
HB17-1294

Students completing their 4th year of high school, who have met their district's graduation requirements and are being retained for a 5th year to participate in an approved postsecondary program (including ASCENT and PTECH) should be reported in the district's End of Year data submission to CDE with an **Exit Code of 90** and a **Retention Code of 2**. Please refer to page12 of the 2019-20 Student Interchange File Layout – Student School Association for more details.

Important Deadlines

AUGUST 16TH

Deadline to notify CDE of new slot release

NOVEMBER 8TH

Deadline to accept October Count SNAPSHOT

Dividing ASCENT Slots

Guidance document link:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/dividing-ascent-slots

- LEPs can offer ASCENT opportunities to more students than it has allocated slots
  i.e. dividing a full-time slot into two part-time slots for two separate students

- LEP's must assure that:
  - All students meet credit hour funding levels & are coded accurately in October Count and End-of-Year:
    - **3-11 credits = part-time**
    - **12+ credits = full-time**

  - All required audit documentation is collected and retained

- LEPs will only be eligible for a maximum ASCENT funding equal to the number of allocated ASCENT slots.

- Contact Mary Anne Hunter if you are considering dividing your slots to a dollar amount that covers less than part-time enrollment

ASCENT Slot Allocation Year	Funding Level	Postsecondary Program Enrollment code	Public School Finance Funding Status	Comment
Current	Full-time	01	80	ASCENT student occupying a full-time current year allocated ASCENT slot (1.0 FTE)
Current	Part-time	01	82	ASCENT student occupying a part-time current year allocated ASCENT slot (0.5 FTE)
Current	Not Eligible	01	86	This is an ASCENT student (1) who does not meet all of the funding requirements OR (2) meets the funding requirements, but the district does not have enough ASCENT slots to receive funding for this student
Carryforward	Full-time	09	87	ASCENT student occupying a full-time carryforward ASCENT slot (1.0 FTE) from the prior school year
Carryforward	Part-time	10	87	ASCENT student occupying a part-time carryforward ASCENT slot (0.5 FTE) from the prior school year
Carryforward/Current	Full-time	10	82	This is a full-time ASCENT student who is occupying a ½ ASCENT slot from the current year (0.5 FTE) AND ½ carryforward ASCENT slot from the prior school year (0.5 FTE)

ASCENT

Accelerating Students through Concurrent ENrollmenT

Overview

Students who have completed at least 12 credit hours of postsecondary course prior to completion of his/her 12th grade year may be eligible for the ASCENT Program. They remain students in their Local Education Provider (LEP) for one year following their 12th grade year, and the LEP receives ASCENT specific per-pupil state funding that it uses to pay their college tuition at the resident community college rate. Students receive their high-school diplomas at the end of their ASCENT year. [C.R.S. § 22-35-108]

Students & Parents: please check with your high school counselor for specific information regarding how your school district administrates the ASCENT Program.

Fact Sheet & Comparison Chart

- ASCENT Fact Sheet (2016-17)
- ASCENT Map (2016-17)
- Comparison Chart: Concurrent Enrollment/ASCENT/Dual Enrollment (updated July 2018)

Training:

- **2018-19** ASCENT Program Webinar Recording
- 2018-19 ASCENT Webinar Presentation
- ASCENT Training for Pupil Count Coordinators - Field Analyst Support Team (FAST)

Data:

- 2016-17 Annual Concurrent Enrollment Report (includes state-wide ASCENT data)
- Previous Annual Concurrent Enrollment Reports

Contact

Mary Anne Hunter
Phone: 303-866-6596
E-mail:Hunter_Mary@cde.state.co.us

ASCENT

Student Eligibility

Guidelines and FAQs

Forms and Sample Documents

Legislation

ASCENT Slot Request Process

Resources

Promising Practices

Colorado Department of Education

QUESTIONS?

Thank You!