STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Breakdown of Concurrent Enrollment Act (HB 09-1319)

Definition of Institution of Higher Education

- State colleges and universities
- Community colleges
- Local district college
- Area vocational school
- Private college or university that:
    - Accredited regionally
    - Offers bachelor's degree and above
    - Authorized to operate by DHE
    - Maintains a physical campus in Colorado

Student Eligibility Parameters

General

- If a student is held back (for a fifth year)for academic reasons and is not in ASCENT they may:
    - Enroll in a maximum of nine credit hours
    - Enroll in a maximum of six credit hours per semester if full time
    - Enroll in a maximum of three credit hours per semester if part time
- Student must seek approval 60 days before the end of the prior term
- Student must create an academic plan
    - Describe courses
    - Must be approved by counselor/principal
- Student must meet prerequisites for course
- Basic Skills course enrollment
    - Only twelfth graders may enroll
    - Only at institutions that are able to offer course
- Student can not be disqualified for state based financial assistance for which they otherwise qualify

ASCENT Specific (ACCELERATING STUDENTS THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT)

- Scheduled to complete 12 credit hours prior to completion of 12th grade
- Not in need of basic skills course(s)
- Selected by high school administrator to participate
- Accepted into degree program
- Not been ASCENT participant in prior years

Institutional Requirements

Local Education Providers

- Local education provider must notify students about opportunity
- Course must count towards graduation requirements at high school
- July 1, 2012 all concurrent enrollment is required to be through these parameters

Institutions of Higher Education

- Higher Education Institution must provide a copy of any agreement to DHE
- Higher Education Institution is not required to allow enrollment or enter into a cooperative agreement and may limit number of students allowed to enroll
    - If Higher Education Institution refuses to allow student to enroll, must provide written explanation of refusal to student and local education provider
- July 1, 2012 all concurrent enrollment is required to be through these parameters

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State Board/CDE and Commission/DHE

- State Board may not limit number of concurrent courses a student may enroll (with the exceptions of student requirements and limitations mentioned in legislation)
- State board will create guidelines for a standard application form by July 1, 2011
    - Must include area where student specifies courses (academic plan)
    - Must be made publically available by local education provider (school district)
- January 1, 2010 the CDE must explore how to handle home school students
- Postsecondary instructor not required to hold teacher license
- No requirement of transportation for the student
- Department administers ASCENT beginning 2010-11 school year
    - Priority to Fast College Fast Jobs participants
- State Board promulgates rules
    - Guidelines for local education providers in the use of enrollment application form
    - Guidelines for principals to use in approving academic plans of study

Cooperative Agreement Requirements

- Local education provider must enter into agreement
- Amount of academic credit for course work
- Require that the course count as basic skills or applicable toward degree
- Require the local education provider pay the tuition
- Jointly establish a program of study for each student
- Confirmation by the school district of the SASID
- Language authorizing payment of COF
- Consideration of eligibility for interscholastic activities
- Higher education institution is responsible for:
    - Course content
    - Placement of student in course
    - Quality of instruction
- Student included in funded pupil count
- Included in the FTE calculations

Reporting Requirements

General

- Report submitted by the advisory board to the State Board and Commission (December 1, 2010)
- Local provider must provide Department with data as required (reasonably)
- DHE may request data from institutions of higher education for reports
- Report from DHE and Department on concurrent enrollment
    - Number and names of districts and institutions that have entered into agreement
    - Number of participants from school districts and institution of higher education
    - Number of credit hours completed
    - Number of basic skills courses completed
    - Total tuition costs paid by local education providers
    - Number of ASCENT designated students
    - Degree programs that ASCENT participants enrolled
    - Number and percent of student that failed to complete course
    - Number and percentage of students that completed degree

Ascent Specific

- ASCENT participants included in the school accountability reports
- Participating student is not considered a high school graduate until complete ASCENT program
- State Board promulgates rules for federal reporting purposes

Advisory Board Formation and Powers

- Functions under the Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education
- Members
    - 3 appointed by Commissioner of Education
    - 4 appointed by executive director of DHE
        - 2 CCCS representatives
        - 1 four year public school representative
        - 1 local district college representative
    - 3 appointed by governor
    - Director of accreditation and regional services
- Appointment to be made no later than October 1, 2009
- First meeting held no later than November 15, 2009
- Reviewed and repealed July 1, 2019
- Duties of the Board
    - Establishing Guidelines for ASCENT program
        - Selection criteria
    - Assisting in preparation of cooperative agreements
    - Recommend legislative and policy changes
    - ASCENT waiver process (by December 1, 2010)
    - Submit a report to State Board and Commission (December 1, 2010)

Financial Provisions

General

- Student is included in funded pupil count of district
- Student included in FTE count at institution of higher education
- Tuition rate established in the cooperative agreement
    - will not exceed the resident tuition rate for a general education course established by the community college board
    - Additional tuition and fees can be charged to the parent
    - Parent/student must repay if the student does not complete the course
    - School district can require repayment from parent if student fails
- Institution can charge fees/tuition in excess of established rate to parents/student

ASCENT Specific

- Program is subject to available appropriations
- Department request budget for estimate provided by local provider
- State Board determines number of student can be designated ASCENT
- Student included in district pupil count

COF

- Credit hours taken pursuant to the legislation count toward cap (except basic skills courses)
- SASID must be recorded prior to payment

Exclusions from Legislation

- Provision are not applicable to off campus programs under extended studies
- Fast Track, PSEO, and Fast College Fast Jobs and existing programs (exempt through June 30, 2012)