

## 2023 Student October Count : Funding and Audit Documentation Requirements/Considerations for Boards of Cooperative Education (BOCES)

**School Auditing Office** 



The goals of today's webinar are to:

- Provide a high-level overview of the funding and audit documentation requirements related to the Student October Count data submission/Funded Pupil Count
- Introduce participants to available resources and information as they prepare for the 2023 Student October Count data submission and subsequent audit
- Brief update on At-Risk and English Language Learner funding counts





# Introduction





## Funding in the State of Colorado

- The Public School Finance Act of 1994, as amended, and the accompanying rules, describe the funding formula and the requirements for pupils to be included in a district's or CSI's funded pupil count
- Funding under this act includes general per pupil funding calculation for each student at the district or CSI, plus funding for:
  - At-Risk pupils
  - English learner pupils
  - Multi-district online pupils
  - ASCENT, P-TECH, and TREP pupils



## Funding in the State of Colorado- BOCES

- Per current statute, total program funding can only be distributed to Colorado public school districts and CSI.
- Total program/ per pupil funding cannot be directly distributed to BOCES.
- BOCES must work directly with their member districts to ensure that all students eligible for funding are included in a district's per pupil count as reported in Student October.
- BOCES then receive per pupil funding for educating students from their member districts.



**The School Finance Unit** at CDE is responsible for calculating the "Total Program" funding for each district and CSI based on district-reported data included in the Student October Count data submission.

#### The School Auditing Office is responsible for:

- Conducting compliance audits as required by the Public School Finance Act of 1994 and the accompanying rules
  - These audit verify that the funding data fields reported during the data submission were accurate when determining funding eligibility
- Providing technical guidance and support to districts throughout the Student October Count data submission related to funding eligibility requirements and corresponding audit documentation



## **Student October Count Day 2023**

## The 2023 pupil enrollment count date will be:

#### Monday, October 2, 2023

September						October							November							
Su	Мо	Τυ	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Τυ	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Мо	Τυ	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

- The 11-day count period includes the following (based on the district's adopted calendar):
  - The 5 student contact days before the pupil enrollment count date
  - The pupil enrollment count date
  - The 5 student contact days following the pupil enrollment count date



## **Student October Count Data Submission**

- When reporting data in the Student October Count data submission, it is very important that districts and BOCES have processes in place to ensure accurate reporting of all data fields, especially those used for determining funding
- Under- or over-reporting of the funded pupil and/or at-risk and ELL counts may result in:
  - <u>Significant</u> audit findings for the district
    - (i.e., the district owing money back to CDE or not receiving all eligible funds prior to audit)
    - This may impact both the current and subsequent school years.
  - Impact on funding for districts across the state of Colorado





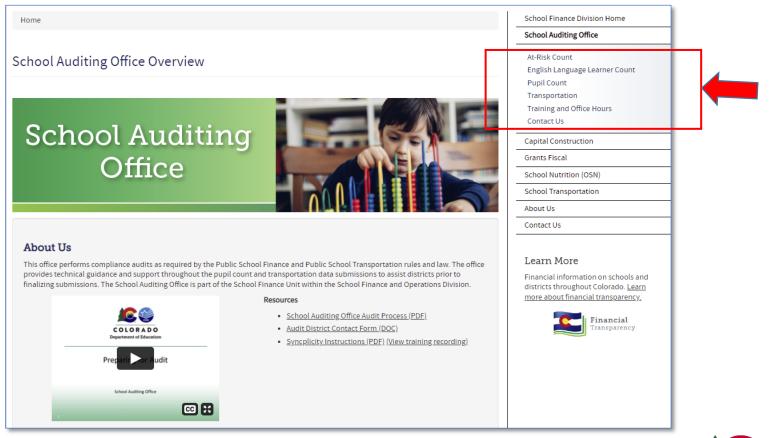
## Resources





#### Resources: School Auditing Office's Website

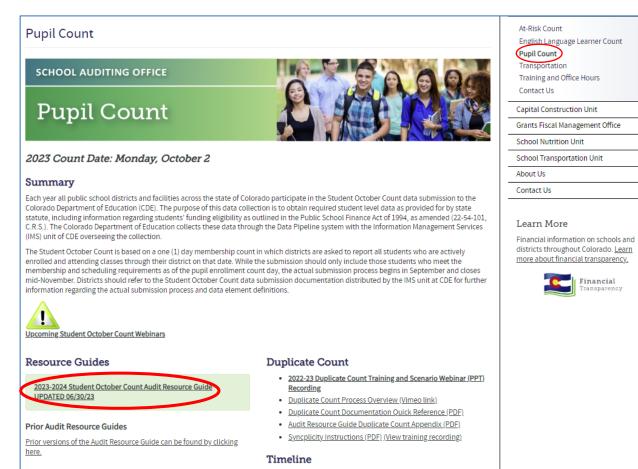
#### http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/auditunit





#### Resources: Pupil Count Webpage

#### https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/auditunit\_pupilcount



Click here to view the School Auditing Office's calendar of important dates and deadlines (link)

#### Trainings

Click here to view the School Auditing Office's upcoming trainings and



#### Resources: Student October Count Audit Resource Guide

- Describes the general funding requirements and corresponding audit documentation for every student
  - Districts, schools and BOCES are encouraged to be most familiar with the first 17 pages of the guide (general funding requirements and corresponding audit documentation)
  - Review Appendices A (Calendar and Bell Schedule Calculations) and C (Duplicate Count).
- Identifies various "unique" student types, courses, schools, and programs that are:
  - Exceptions to the general funding rule(s), and/or
  - Variations in the type of audit documentation necessary to evidence funding eligibility
- 2023 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide
  - https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/23-24\_pupil\_count\_audit\_resource\_guide



#### Student October Count Audit Resource Guide: Cover Page and Table of Contents



#### **COLORADO** Department of Education

#### 2023 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide Fiscal Year 2023-2024

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)

> By: Colorado State Board of Education School District Operations Division

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Effective July 1, 2023

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.

201 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203; 303-866-6600; www.cde.state.co.us

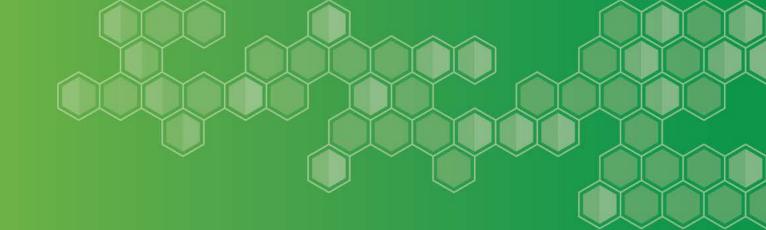
Colorado Revised Statutes http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/colorado/ Code of Colorado Regulations http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do



Student October Count Audit Resource Guide

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# **General Funding Requirements**



## **Students Attending BOCES schools and programs**

### For funding purposes:



BOCESs are <u>not</u> considered a unique school type or program (unless some other criteria—being a Colorado public Online School or Program—applies). **However**, most BOCES students are considered contractual education students.



Students attending a BOCES school or program must meet the same general funding requirements as any other students.



If a unique student, course, school, or program type applies to a given student (such as contractual education, online school or program, concurrent enrollment, work-based learning courses, etc.) then those additional funding and/or audit documentation requirements <u>do</u> apply.



## Funding Requirements:

All funding requirements are based on the pupil enrollment count date and the 11-day count period.

# General funding requirements:

- 1. Enrollment
- 2. Attendance
- 3. Scheduled Instructional Hours



To be eligible for funding, as of the pupil enrollment count date, students must:

- Be enrolled with the district
- Be younger than 21 years old
  - <u>Exception</u>: Students receiving services outlined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may turn 21 before the pupil enrollment count date in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date and still be eligible for funding
- Not have met the district's minimum graduation requirements
  - <u>Exception</u>: Students receiving services outlined in an IEP who have met the district's minimum graduation requirements are eligible for funding through age 21
  - <u>Exception</u>: Students are eligible for funding for a minimum of 4 years of high school. If the student meets the district's minimum graduation requirements before the 4<sup>th</sup> year of high school, the student may still be eligible for funding
  - <u>Exception</u>: Students who are being retained to participate in a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year extended high school postsecondary program (ASCENT, P-TECH, TREP)



Students enrolling after the pupil enrollment count date, but before the end of the 11-day count period, <u>may be eligible</u> for funding if they meet one of the transfer enrollment exceptions:

- Within-District Transfers
- Within-State Transfers
- Out-of-State Transfers



#### Funding Requirements: Attendance

• Students must be present for all, or any portion of, the pupil enrollment count date (in any scheduled class)

#### <u>OR</u>

- If the student is absent for any reason on the pupil enrollment count date:
  - Must establish attendance (in any scheduled class) prior to the pupil enrollment count date during the current school year <u>AND</u>
  - Must resume attendance (in any scheduled class) within 30 days following the pupil enrollment count date
    - This assumes the students do not break their enrollment with the district
    - If the student withdraws from the during the current school year prior to the pupil enrollment count date—with the intention of leaving the district—and re-enrolls within 30 days following the pupil enrollment count date, the student is not eligible for funding

*Exception:* Students who are <u>only</u> scheduled into postsecondary courses off-site at the college



- Districts and schools must provide individual student schedules for all secondary (grades 6-12) students.
  - Should reflect what was true as of the pupil enrollment count date
  - Should encompass the entire semester of the pupil enrollment count date
- For most student/course types, funding level eligibility is based on scheduled teacher-pupil instruction and contact time during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date:
  - Part-time funding: 90, but less than 360, hours
  - Full-time funding: 360+ hours



Funding determination for students taking postsecondary courses depends on the type of school and/or program:

#### ASCENT/CE/TREP:

- Part-Time Funding = 3-11 semester college credits
- Full-Time Funding = 12+ semester college credits

#### Early College/Dropout Recovery Students

- Part-Time Funding = 3-6 semester college credits
- Full-Time Funding = 7+ semester college credits

Students may be eligible for full-time funding if they are:

- Part-time based on their high school scheduled teacher-pupil instruction and contact time (i.e., 90+ hours) <u>AND</u>
- Part-time based on their postsecondary credit hours (i.e., 3+ credit hours)



Calendar and bell schedule calculations should be conducted by districts and schools to determine, for each secondary school, the number of courses (or amount of time) necessary for part-time or full-time funding.

Resources:

- <u>Appendix A</u> of the <u>2023 Student October Count Audit</u> <u>Resource Guide</u> provides examples of how to conduct each of these calculations.
- BOCES can also reach out to the School Auditing Office for assistance in completing these calculations for funding determination.





## **BOCES & Online Considerations**





## **BOCES and Online Schools**



- Online School Or Program Terminology
  - An "Online School or Program" is either a Colorado online public school or online program, operated by a Colorado school district or BOCES that has submitted Authorizers Assurances to the CDE Office of Blended and Online Learning and meets the statutory definition of an online school or program.
  - An "Online School or Program" <u>does not</u> refer to vendors of particular software, curriculums, or "online courses" (such as Edgenuity, CDLS, Gradpoint, K12, etc.) nor online schools or programs operating out of the state of Colorado (such as Florida Virtual Academy).
- If the BOCES operates a Colorado public online school or program, refer to the "Online Schools and Programs" section of the Audit Resource Guide
- A complete list of certified <u>MDOL schools and SDOL schools</u> and <u>programs</u> that have provided notification to the Office of Blended and Online Learning for the 2023-24 SY can be found on the <u>Office of Online and</u> <u>Blended Learning</u> webpages
  - https://www.cde.state.co.us/onlinelearning



#### Terminology

When determining teacher-pupil instruction and contact time or equivalencies for funding consideration, the following definitions apply.

#### • Credit Recovery Courses/Learning Labs/Sessions

• These are courses taken by students enrolled in brick-and-mortar schools (i.e., those with funding codes 80, 82, 85, or 86) in which **all of the instruction is regularly received in person on-site**, but students may be working through digital or online curriculum similar to a supplemental online or blended learning course.

#### Blended Learning Course

These are courses taken by students enrolled in brick-and-mortar schools (i.e., those with funding codes 80, 82, 85, or 86) in which some of the instruction is regularly received in person on-site and some of the instruction is received regularly off-site, digitally (with some element of student control over the time, place, path, and/or pace of participation).

#### • Supplemental Online Course

• These are courses taken by students enrolled in brick-and mortar schools (i.e., 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).



Unless an BOCES has a Colorado public Online School or has notified CDE of an existing Online Program (through the submission of Authorizer Assurances to the Office of Blended and Online Learning), **BOCES must follow the same guidance regarding blended learning and/or supplemental online** <u>courses</u> as any other brick-and-mortar school.

 Refer to the "Blended Learning Courses" and "Supplemental Online Learning Courses" sections of the 2023 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide for details.



To include the digitally-delivered, off-site portion of course instruction in the determination for funding for Blended Learning and Supplemental Online Courses, the following <u>course documentation</u> must be provided at the time of audit (in addition to the required student level documentation):

- Governance: Description of district policy that outlines:
  - Acceptable synchronous/asynchronous ways in which teacher-pupil instruction and contact time can occur outside of the classroom
  - Acceptable ways in which attendance/participation will be documented during the off-site portion of the class
- Schedule clearly indicating the dates/times in which students receive inperson/synchronous instruction (per Course Requirement #3)
- List of all Blended Learning and Supplemental Online courses being offered during the fall term at each school



#### Course Requirements: Blended Learning and Supplemental Online Courses

The following <u>requirements</u> must be met in order to include Blended Learning and Supplemental Online <u>courses</u> in the determination for funding:

1. Limits on the number of courses that may be considered as instructional time for funding purposes

- Students can take at least one Blended Learning or Supplemental Online course
- Students may take up to two courses, as long as the second course does not result in a semester schedule that consists of a combined total of more than 40% Blended Learning and/or Supplemental Online courses
- Students with more than 3 Blended Learning and/or Supplemental Online courses will be evaluated as online students unless a Variance Waiver is granted

2. Courses must occupy unique positions on a student's schedule

3. Each course must be comprised of at least 20% weekly in-person or synchronous instruction

• Note: Supplemental Online courses offered through an approved or recognized online school or program are not subject to this requirement

4. Students must have access to equipment and sufficient internet access



# The Variance Waiver waives the following course requirements only:

## 1. Limits on the number of courses that may be considered as instructional time for funding purposes

- Students can take at least one Blended Learning or Supplemental Online course
- Students may take up to two courses as long as the second course does not result in a semester schedule that consists of a combined total of more than 40% Blended Learning and/or Supplemental Online courses
- Students with more than 3 Blended Learning and/or Supplemental Online courses will be evaluated as online students unless a Variance Waiver is granted

3. Each course must be comprised of at least 20% weekly in-person or synchronous instruction

• Note: Supplemental Online courses offered through an approved or recognized online school or program are not subject to this requirement



If a BOCES school or program has implemented a learning model that operates outside of this posted Guidance for Blended Learning and Supplemental Online learning, it can submit a <u>Variance Waiver</u>.

- See "Appendix D" of the Student October Count Audit Resource Guide for details.
- Watch the recorded training from May 17, 2023 on the <u>School</u> <u>Auditing Office training page</u>
  - https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/auditunit\_trainings
- The deadline to request this waiver for the 2023-2024 school year is August 8, 2023.





# **BOCES Specific Considerations**





# Contractual Education Documentation Requirements for Students attending a BOCES <u>School</u> or <u>Program</u>

- Evidence of enrollment eligibility from BOCES
- Daily attendance (for the entire 11-day count period) from the BOCES
- Individual Student Schedule from the BOCES
  - Appropriate documentation showing the student's actual scheduled teacherpupil instruction and contact time.
    - 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).
  - BOCES program/school calendar
  - BOCES program/school bell schedule
- Purchase agreement or contract for educational services between district and BOCES (this is usually above and beyond educational services covered under membership costs)
  - Alternatively, evidence of tuition paid by the district to the BOCES
- Additional documentation, as described in this Guide, for all applicable unique student, course, school, and program types.



## Additional Common Student, Course, School or Program Types for BOCES students



- ASCENT
- Blended learning courses
- Concurrent enrollment
- Home- school students
- High school equivalency diploma students
- Online schools and programs
- Supplemental online courses
- Work-based learning experience courses
- \* This is not an exhaustive list.





# **At-Risk Count**





<u>Reminder</u>: Starting with the 2021/2022 school year, the at-risk count includes both free <u>and</u> reduced-price lunch eligible students!

- Districts, schools & BOCES will be expected to retain documentation supporting lunch eligibility status for any student reported as free or reduced-price lunch eligible in Student October.
  - This applies whether schools offer meals to students or not
- 2023 At-Risk Count Audit Resource Guide
  - https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/atrisk\_audit\_resource\_guide\_2324
- <u>At-Risk Count Audit Overview Webinar Recording</u> available from July 20, 2023
  - http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/auditunit\_trainings



## **NEW**—Healthy School Meals for All

- Pursuant to HB22-1414 and beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, districts may opt-in to participate in the Healthy School Meals for All program (HSMA) which allows districts and schools participating in the National School Lunch Program to provide free meals to all students.
- Districts that choose to opt-in to HSMA will still need to provide student eligibility documentation. Districts must continue to keep records of eligibility and continue to conduct direct certification per existing guidance.
- While all students attending an opt-in district are eligible to eat meals for free, only students with qualifying eligibility documentation on file may be reported as free or reduced-price lunch eligible in the Student October Count data submission.



### **Notice:** Changes to At-risk Funding Calculations Beginning in 2024-2025

- Pursuant to HB22-1202, the at-risk funding calculation method is changing.
- Pursuant to SB23-287, these changes will be implemented starting with the **2024-2025** school year.
- The new calculation will take into consideration:
  - Percentage of students certified as eligible for free lunch based on receipt of SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR benefits or participating in Medicaid (i.e., directly certified) <u>OR</u> categorical eligibility (foster, homeless, migrant, etc.); <u>AND</u>
  - A neighborhood socioeconomic status index that is linked to each student's census block group.
- Districts should anticipate that beginning with 2024-2025, required audit documentation to support the district's funded at-risk counts <u>will</u> change.



### **NEW**—Free Lunch Eligibility Identification

- To assist in collecting the needed data for the changes to the at-risk funding calculation, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the "Free Lunch Eligibility Identification" field has been added to the Student October Snapshot.
  - Any student reported with a "Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible" value of "01" (free lunch eligible) will be required to have a value other than "0" in this new field
- Applicable values are:

0	Not identified as Free Lunch Eligible
1	Direct Certification (Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, FDPIR) – including extension to other household members
2	Other Source Categorical (Migrant, Homeless, Runway, Foster, Head Start documented participation) – LEA lists, student-specific eligibility
3	Application (Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, Family Economic Data Survey Form, or Combination form)



### NEW—At-Risk Measure (SES Data Pilot Project)

- The School Finance and Data Services units at CDE are currently working with districts throughout the state in a Data Pilot Project.
  - During this pilot, CDE will develop guidance and instructions on how to obtain and report student-level census block data needed for the implementation of the new at-risk measure/calculation beginning in 2024-2025.
- Communications will be sent out to districts in preparation for the new data requirement.
- At this time, it has yet to be determined how this additional information will be provided to CDE.
  - This data may be incorporated into the Student October Snapshot, obtained through a new data file or collection, etc.





## English Language Learner Count





#### **ELL Count Overview**

As provided for under SB21-268 and beginning with fiscal year 2021-2022, there is a new English Language Learner funding factor that is included in the calculated total program funding for each district.

This funding factor includes additional funding to districts related to the total number of English learners included in the district's funded pupil count for the current year.



#### **Resources and Training**

#### English Language Learner Count

#### SCHOOL AUDITING OFFICE

#### English Language Learner Count



#### 2022 Count Date: Monday, October 3

#### Summary

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 (Section 22-54-101, C.R.S.). The Colorado Department of Education collects these data through the Data Pipeline with the information Management Services (IMS) unit of CDE overseeing the collection.

As provided for under SB21-268 and beginning with fiscal year 2021-2022, there is a new English Language Learner funding factor that will be included in the calculated total program funding for each district. This new funding factor will include additional funding to districts related to the total number of English language learners included in the district's funded uppli count for the current year.

Student October Count data will be used to determine which students are included in the district's English language learner count. Students meeting the following criteria will be included in the district's ELL count:

- Grade level: Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Public School Finance Funding Status (i.e., funding code): 80, 82, 85, 91, 92, 94, 95
- Language Proficiency: 1 NEP (Non-English Proficient); 2 LEP (Limited-English Proficient)

In addition to the above listed criteria, students must still be within the five-year services window defined in English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA). Please note that the English Language Learner count/funding factor is separate from the categorical funding districts received under the English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA). For more information about ELPA, please visit: <u>http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde\_english/eipa</u>.

In an effort to ensure accurate reporting of those data fields associated with the determination of each district's total program funding, the School Auditing Office will conduct periodic compliance audits of each district's student October count data, including a review of documentation to support the district's English Language Learner count, specifically the district's determination of language proficiency for students reported as Non-English Proficient (NEP) and Limited-English Proficient (LEP).

Some forms recommended by the School Auditing Office may contain personally identifiable information of students and districts should take additional precautions. Local education agencies must use secure means when sending Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to CDE. If transferring PII between districts, schools, or with other parties, CDE strongly recommends that you send PII via a secure method. For example, an encrypted email, a secure file sharing tool like Syncplicity, or including the PII in a password protected document. If you have questions, contact CDE's Data Privacy Office at <u>dataprivacy@cde.state.co.us</u>.

#### **Resource Guide**

2022-2023 English Language Learner Count Audit Resource Guide (UPDATED 07/01/2022)

Prior Audit Resource Guides

Prior versions of the Audit Resource Guide can be found by clicking here.

Trainings

Internal CDE Resources

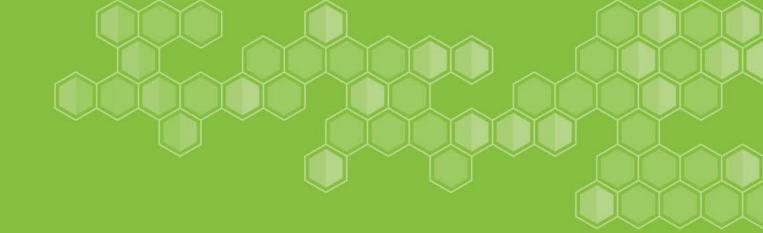
### English Language Learner Count Webpage

 http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefi nance/auditunit\_ell\_count

#### Introduction to the ELL Count Audit Webinar:

- Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am
- http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefi nance/auditunit\_trainings



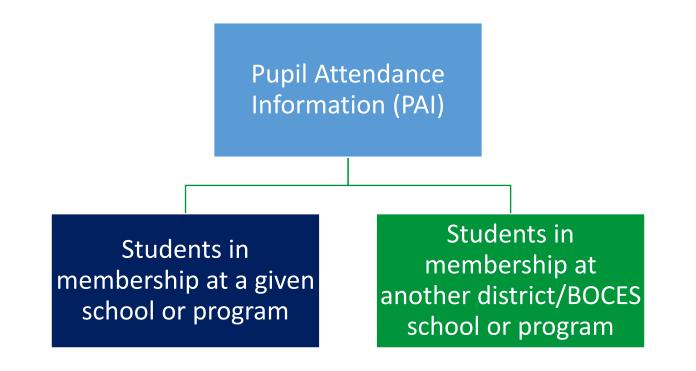


# Student October Count (and SEY): Pupil Attendance Information (PAI) Coding



#### **PAI** Overview

**Pupil's Attendance Information (PAI)** 





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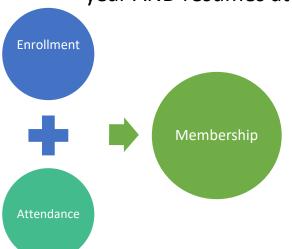
### **Criteria for PAI Codes**

#### Which Students get included in Student October?

- Students in membership at your district's schools (PAI=01-08)
- Students your district is contracting with an outside program/district/BOCES to educate (PAI=24-33)

### What is membership?

- Enrolled by the count day (or alternate count day)
- Attendance on count day OR
- Has established attendance prior to count day during the current school year AND resumes attendance within 30 days following the count day





#### 01-08 PAI Codes

# Resident Pupils Attending an Educational Program Operated by the Reporting District

- 01-Resident, Designated School
- 02-Resident, School of Choice (Open Enrollment)
- 03-Resident, Non-District Site (Expelled, Preschool)
- 04-Non-Resident, Choice (Public Schools of Choice)
- 05-Non-Resident, Non-Choice
- 08-Resident, Non-Choice

These codes are for students being educated in the district reporting them. Resident/Non-resident should be determined by the district associated with the residence of the parent(s).



#### 24-33 PAI Codes

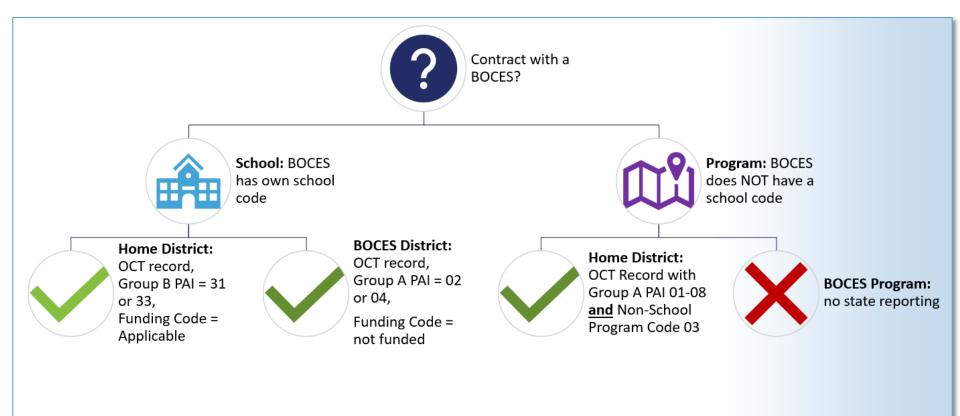
# Resident Pupils Attending an Educational Program Not Operated by the Reporting District

- 24 Court Mandated Juvenile Detention
- 27 Non-Public Schools (Contractual Agreement)
- 28 Outside of Colorado Public Education Agency
- 29 Outside of Colorado Non-Public School
- 30 Colorado Public Agency (Contractual Agreement)
- 31 School District or BOCES (Contractual Agreement)
- 33 Online Schools (Contractual Agreement)

These codes are used for students who are residents of reporting district, but the district is not educating the student

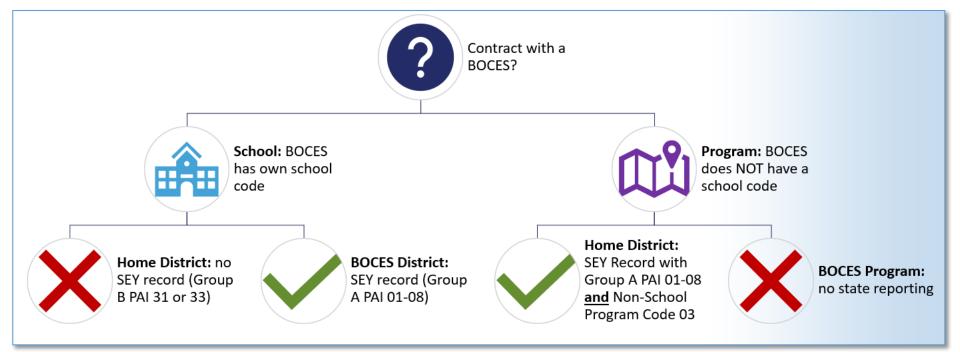


### **OCT: Students attending BOCES Schools/Programs**





#### **SEY: Students attending BOCES Schools/Programs**





#### Contact:

#### **School Auditing Office**

<u>General email box</u>: audit@cde.state.co.us <u>School Auditing Office Website</u>: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/auditunit

### **Funding and Audit Documentation Questions**

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#### **Student October Count Coding Questions**

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#### Student End of Year Coding Questions Reagan Ward, Data Analyst/Statistician, Data Services Unit

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## **Questions?**



