

ASCENT

Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment

Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) is a fifth year concurrent enrollment program which allows students to participate in concurrent enrollment the year after 12th-grade.

Eligibility

Students eligible to participate in ASCENT must:

- Complete 12 postsecondary credits before the end of 12th-grade
- Not be in need of remedial courses in their selected pathway
- Be selected for participation by high school principal/administrator
- Be admitted into a postsecondary degree or certificate program
- Not have participated in ASCENT in previous years

Growth & Student Outcomes

- Over 460 students participated in ASCENT in 2014-15, an increase of 11 percent from the previous year.
- In 2014-15, 40 districts participated in ASCENT. Aurora Public Schools had the most students participate in Colorado.
- Many ASCENT students are able to earn a postsecondary credential upon completion of their ASCENT year. In 2014-15, 1,231 students in concurrent enrollment and ASCENT programs earned a postsecondary credential.
- Students participating in concurrent enrollment programs, such as ASCENT, are 23 percent more likely to enroll in college and 10 percent less likely to need remediation.

Postsecondary Readiness

Expanding pathways from high school to postsecondary opportunities is essential to increasing the number of postsecondary degrees earned by Coloradans and decreasing high school dropout rates. ASCENT provides an accelerated opportunity for students to earn a postsecondary credential, helping students develop the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to be postsecondary and workforce ready.

ASCENT Objectives

- Increase the percentage of students participating in postsecondary education, especially low-income and traditionally underserved populations.
- Decrease the number of students who do not complete high school.
- Decrease the time required for a student to complete a postsecondary credential.
- Increase the number of educational pathways available to students.

Where can I learn more?

- Office of Postsecondary Readiness, ASCENT Resources: www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ce_ascent
- Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment, 2014-15 School Year: higher.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Enrollment/FY2015/2015_Concurrent_Enrollment_May_2016.pdf
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaq