COLORADO
Department of Education

Student End of Year Coding Guide: ASCENT Program

General Information

Accelerating **S**tudents through **C**oncurrent **E**nrollme**nt** (ASCENT) is a fifth-year high school program that allows students to participate in concurrent enrollment the year after 12th grade, to enroll in postsecondary courses and earn college credit at no tuition cost to them or their families.

Additional costs, such as textbooks, fees, and transportation, are not required by the district to cover, though some districts choose to cover these costs.

Qualified students who have completed at least 9 credit hours of postsecondary coursework prior to the completion of their 12th grade year may be eligible for the ASCENT Program.

As of the 2022-2023 school year, the slot allocation model was removed for ASCENT meaning there is no longer a statewide cap of ASCENT slots for eligible student participation.

Graduation Rate Impact

H.B. 17-1294 went into effect in the 2017-2018 school year. It allows a student completing their 4th year of high school who has met their district's local graduation requirements and Colorado's Graduation Guidelines to be counted as a graduate for graduation rate purposes. These students are then retained to participate in ASCENT for their 5th year.

H.B. 17-1294 did not change the existing requirements with regard to an ASCENT student's high school diplomas, in that an ASCENT student's high school diploma cannot be dated and conferred to the student until they have completed the ASCENT (5th) year. The date of graduation on the ASCENT student's official high school transcript must reflect the date that the student completes their ASCENT (5th) year or is no longer participating in the ASCENT program. This ensures a student remains classified as a high school student in their 5th year and is eligible to receive ASCENT funding.

Districts/LEAs may decide if they will allow ASCENT students to participate in regular graduation ceremonies during their 4th year without receiving their official diploma or wait to participate in graduation ceremonies upon completion of their ASCENT year.

FEBRUARY 2024

Student October & Funding

The Student October Pupil Enrollment collection contains student enrollment information as of the pupil enrollment count date. This information is used to determine the school demographics, number of students in instructional programs, free and reduced lunch counts, and distribution of school finances across the state. Students participating in ASCENT programs are indicated as such during this data collection to ensure appropriate funding allocation for these students.

See the [Student October collection website](#) and the [School Auditing – Pupil Count website](#) for more information regarding Student October coding and funding for ASCENT students.

SEY Coding Guidance

Per H.B. 17-1294, districts may count a student as a graduate who will be retained to participate in a 5th year ASCENT program. A student's Anticipated Year of Graduation (AYG) is used to determine if a student is in their 5th year of high school. See the Student End of Year website for more information about how AYG is assigned.

The coding patterns below are designed to support districts in coding ASCENT students whether they plan to count the student as a graduate in the 4th or 5th year.

ASCENT student counted as graduate in 4th year:

Data Field	4th Year Code	5th year Code
Grade Level	120	120
Postsecondary Program Enrollment	00 or 02	01
School Entry Type	02 or applicable code	90
School Exit Type	90	24 or 23
Retention Code	2	0

Notes:
- Exit 24 – Previous graduate who completed their ASCENT 5th year
- Exit 23 – Previous graduate who did not complete their ASCENT 5th year
- Diploma/Transcripts reflect exit date in 5th year as the student's graduation date.

ASCENT student counted as graduate in 5th year:

Data Field	4th Year Code	5th year Code
Grade Level	120	120
Postsecondary Program Enrollment	00 or 02	01
School Entry Type	02 or applicable code	02 or 11
School Exit Type	00	96
Retention Code	2	0

Notes:
- Exit 96 – Student completed ASCENT and received high school diploma

Home-Based Education student participating in ASCENT:

Special coding is needed if a home-schooled student receiving some regular education services with a public school district will be participating in ASCENT since these students are not eligible to be counted as a Colorado public school graduate. Home-based education students receive their diploma from their home-based education program.

Data Field	4th Year Code	5th year Code
Grade Level	120	120
Home Based Education	1	1
Postsecondary Program Enrollment	00 or 02	01
School Entry Type	02 or applicable code	16
School Exit Type	16	16
Retention Code	2	0

Notes:
- Exit 16 – transfer to homebased education
  - This exit type is required for any student with an AYG in their 4th year or beyond who is also marked as home-based education '1' (Yes) since these students do not receive a regular high school diploma from a Colorado public school. Their diploma is issued through their home-based education program. This exit type removes the student from the graduation rate calculation.