



Eligibility

A student is eligible for ASCENT if the student:

- Has completed, or is scheduled to complete, 12 credit hours of transcribed postsecondary course work* prior to completing his/her 12th grade year. Any remedial coursework previously taken does not qualify as a part of the 12 credit hours of required college coursework.
- Is college ready, and not in need of basic skills coursework in accordance to the pathway they enroll.
- Completes an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) prior to declaring intent to participate in ASCENT.
- Applies, and is accepted, into a postsecondary degree program at a Colorado institution of higher education.
- Is selected for participation by his or her high school principal or equivalent school administrator.

*Does not include International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Education Program (CLEP), prior learning, or experiential courses, unless these exams/experiences have been converted to transcribed credits on a college transcript. See [ASCENT Q&A for Advanced Placement \(AP\) courses](#).

Students are not to be counted as high school graduates or granted a high school diploma until they complete the ASCENT program.

Eligible students may only participate in the ASCENT program for 1 academic year.

If an eligible student is denied admission to a public higher education institution, the institution should provide a written explanation to the student and the local education provider.

Enrollment

- On or before February 1st of each year, a local education provider (LEP) shall submit to the Colorado Department of Education an estimate of the number of students in the LEP who will seek to participate in the ASCENT program for the following school year.
- By May 1st, LEPs must submit an official affidavit to the Department with final ASCENT participation numbers and list of eligible students (via a Department designated secure portal) for the following academic year.
- Students may only enroll in Guarantee Transfer credit courses, or state approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) postsecondary program, including coursework related to apprenticeship programs and internship programs, unless parent and student sign a form indicating “credits may not transfer.” The ASCENT pathway (AAS, AS, AA, etc.) must be clearly spelled out which would include an explanation of “credits may not transfer.”
- Eligible students will be selected for participation by the high school principal or equivalent school administrator.



Funding

- Statewide funding for ASCENT participation is subject to available state appropriations each budget year.
- An [allocation model](#), developed by the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board and approved by the State Board of Education, will be used to allocate ASCENT slots to LEPs fairly in the case that the number of qualified students exceeds the number of funded slots.
- On or before June 1st, LEPs will receive notification of the number of ASCENT slots they will be funded for in the following academic year, based on the final May 1st request and allocation model.
- School districts must report ASCENT students in October count to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). LEPs must verify attendance at the IHE according to October Count procedures for the enrollment for ASCENT students. Please see "[Student October Count Attendance Requirements for Concurrent Enrollment & ASCENT](#)" for guidance on ASCENT attendance verification.
- Textbooks and fees are the responsibility of the student, unless otherwise negotiated between the LEP and IHE.
- Institutions of higher education will include enrolled ASCENT students in official full-time equivalent student reporting.
- ASCENT participants will be required to apply for Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) funding, and authorize, for each term of postsecondary enrollment at institutions which receive COF funding.

ASCENT Program LEP & High School Procedures

- Notification of participation to students.
- Determine any additional LEP defined standards for eligibility/readiness (e.g. appropriate GPA, meeting LEP graduation requirements, etc.) for students enrolled in program or intending to enroll.
- Develop a timeline for students to sign up for ASCENT program, prior to February 1st of the 12th grade year. LEPs should consider adding ASCENT interest in students' ICAP form, during their sophomore year of high school.
- Because submission of a request does not guarantee an ASCENT slot, LEPs should notify ASCENT-eligible students to continue to pursue any additional postsecondary opportunities that they would normally. Students should be advised to:
 - Research career and/or military opportunities;
 - Apply to any postsecondary institutions/programs they are interested in;
 - Apply for any scholarships they may be eligible for, and
 - [Complete the FAFSA](#)



- Prior to the May 1st ASCENT submission deadline, LEPs should confirm that students and parent/guardian have pursued additional postsecondary opportunities and reviewed the best fit for the student, both in terms of financial options and postsecondary goals, as well as providing other postsecondary options if all ASCENT requests are not able to be fully covered.
- Create a system to prioritize students for ASCENT participation in the case that the number of qualified students exceeds the number of funded slots.
- Create a policy for students to participate in graduation. Diploma may not be awarded, but a certificate of attendance or completion may be awarded at high school graduation.
- Coordinate ASCENT student orientation in partnership with local institution of higher education.
- Implement procedures for students who fail one or more courses, and for students who drop the ASCENT program in the middle or end of the semester.
- Books and fees will be purchased by each student or his/her parent or guardian at participating college, unless identified differently in the cooperative agreement or LEP policy.
- Secondary Advising: High School is responsible for advising 9-12th graders per American School Counseling Association model. High school should work with students in their 12th grade year to develop “self advocacy” to access college advisors for the ASCENT year. High school counselors should continue to pursue college admission and financial aid opportunities.
- Institution of Higher Education Advising: Colleges will provide advising that shall be sought out by the ASCENT student. College should ascertain the degree/certificate plan each ASCENT student is seeking and will advise for courses according to that track and course eligibility.