

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Early College High Schools



What is the definition of Early College?

An Early College, as defined by C.R.S. 22-35-103(10)(a), is a secondary school that provides only a curriculum that requires each student to enroll in and complete secondary and postsecondary courses while enrolled in the four years of high school such that, upon successful completion of the curriculum, the student will have completed the requirements of a high school diploma and an associate's degree or other postsecondary credential or at least sixty credits toward the completion of a postsecondary credential. The curriculum must be designed to be completed within four years.

Can early colleges receive per pupil funding for students who do not complete the curriculum in 4 years?

While the curriculum at an early college must be designed to be completed within four years, if a student requires additional time to complete the academic program, the student may remain enrolled, and early colleges can receive per pupil funding. Like students in traditional high schools, student enrolled in an early college are eligible for a free and appropriate public education until age 21.

However, per State Board of Education (SBE) rules early colleges must apply for re-designation for early college status every five years or sooner if requested by the SBE. SBE rules state: *The rate at which students successfully complete the Early College curriculum within four years shall be relevant evidence for purposes of the State Board's determination for renewal applications.* [1 CCR 301-105 \(2.03\)](#),

Early colleges are exempt from the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act. What does this mean?

Per C.R.S. 22-35-110 (4), the provisions of the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA) do not apply to an early college. This means requirements established for concurrent enrollment programs, including ASCENT, are not required for early college programs. For example, a student enrolled in 12+ credit hours in concurrent enrollment is considered full-time. However, for a student in an early college program, 7+ credits are considered full-time.