

ASCENT Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment

Student Pathways



ASCENT

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

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.

FUNDING

Local Education Providers (LEPs) receive ASCENT-specific per pupil state funding to pay their ASCENT students' college tuition at the resident community college rate.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Students eligible to participate in ASCENT must:

- Complete 12 postsecondary credits of transcribed, credit-bearing college-level postsecondary coursework before the end of the 12th grade (remedial/developmental education college courses do not qualify as part of the 12 required credits)
- 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 (2017-18 School Year)

- Participation in ASCENT increased by more than 20 percentage points from the previous year of 2016-17 with 557 students participating statewide in 2017-18.
- Nearly 40 percent of students who participated in ASCENT in 2017-18 were Hispanic, a minority group that is historically underrepresented in postsecondary education.

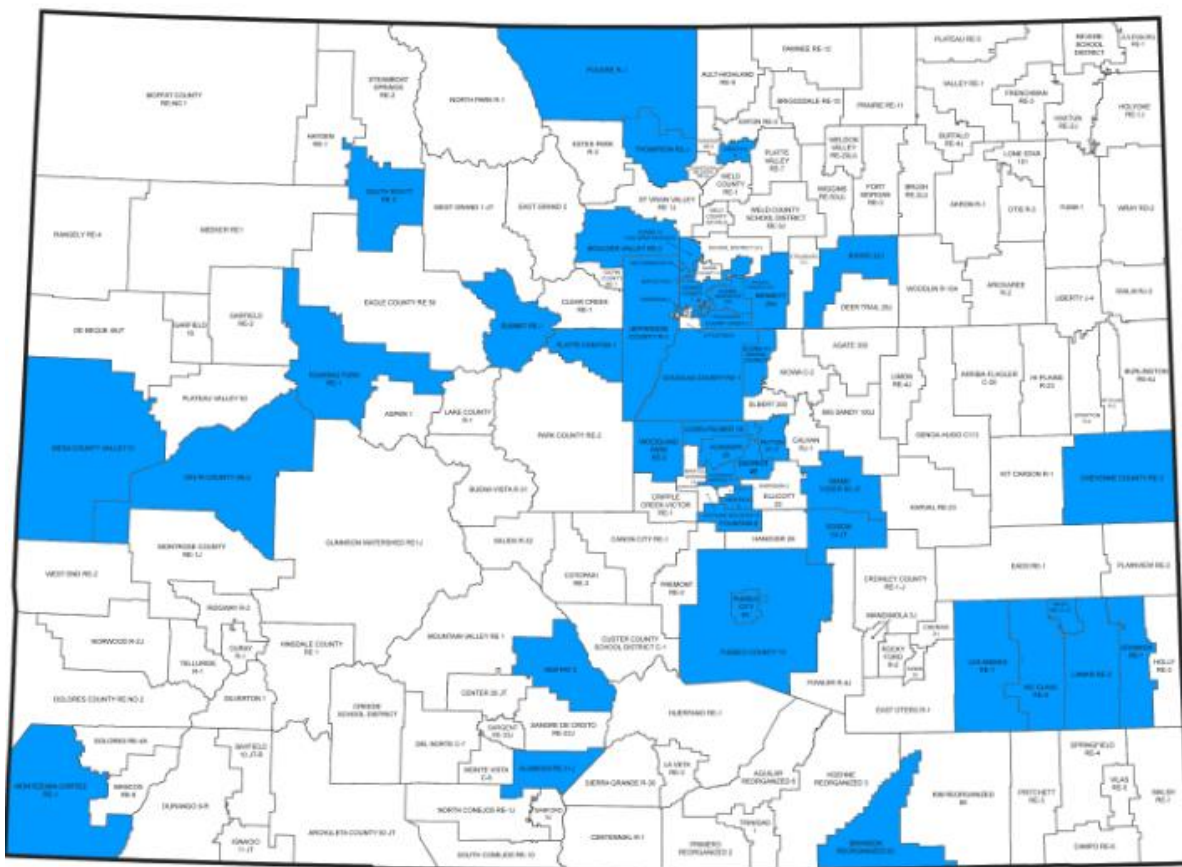
ASCENT Objectives:

- 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.

- More than 88 percent of ASCENT students were enrolled in a credential-seeking program. Through Concurrent Enrollment or ASCENT programs, 2,758 students earned some type of postsecondary credential in 2017-18 while still in high school. This is a 37 percent increase over the 2016-17 total credential-completion number of 2,017.
- 42 LEAs participated in this program (an increase of nine from 2016-2017).
- 2,965 students have participated in the ASCENT program from 2010-11 thru 2017-18.

ASCENT Program 2017-2018

Shaded districts have at least one participating student



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Source: Colorado Department of Education

Where can I learn more?

- [Office of Postsecondary Readiness, ASCENT Resources](#)
- [Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment, 2016-17 School Year](#)
- [View all CDE fact sheets: www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs](http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs)