

**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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**ASCENT Program**  
**2020 October Count Student Coding**

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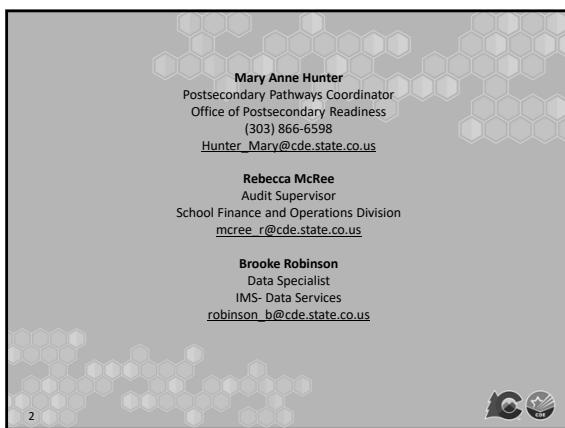
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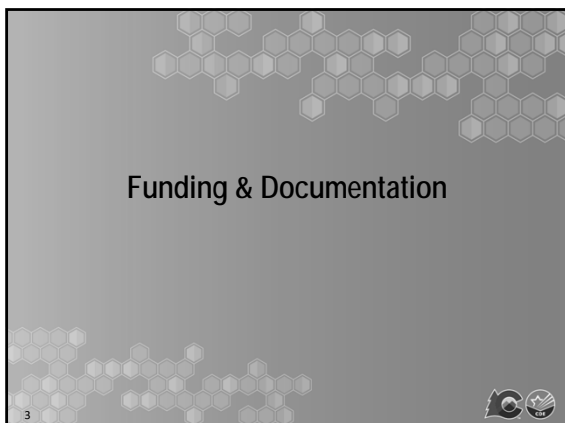
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**Funding & Documentation**



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### Carry Forward ASCENT Slot Timeline

- **January 2020:** CDE determines whether all current year ASCENT slots were used during previous October Count
- **By April 2020:** CDE notifies districts with carry forward slots for the upcoming budget year
- **January 2021:** CDE determines the number of ASCENT carry forward slots from the prior budget year must be repaid
- **April 2021** CDE notifies districts the amount they must repay for unused carry forward ASCENT slots from the prior budget year

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### Funding/Documentation Requirements

- **ASCENT Cooperative Agreement**
  - For the corresponding school year between the district and the IHE
- **Enrollment**
  - Student must be enrolled with the district as of the pupil enrollment count date
- **Credit Hour Verification**
  - Funding eligibility for ASCENT students is determined by the number of college credit hours into which the student is enrolled (and for which the district has paid) as of the pupil enrollment count date
    - Part-Time Funding: 3-11 semester credit hours
    - Full-Time Funding: 12+ semester credit hours
      - Homeschool students enrolled in the ASCENT program are only eligible for a maximum of part-time funding
- **Tuition Payment Verification**
  - Documentation that shows the district paid the tuition cost for all ASCENT semester credit hours directly to the IHE

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### Funding/Documentation Requirements

- **High School Transcript**
  - Transcript should be generated during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date
    - Student cannot have already graduated
    - Student should have previously completed at least 12 semester credit hours at an IHE (and these should be reflected on the transcript)
    - Student should be in his/her 5<sup>th</sup> year of high school

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### Funding/Documentation Requirements

**REMINDER: Beginning with the 2019-20 school years, districts and charter schools are no longer required to provide attendance verification for postsecondary courses taken off-site at the IHE.**

Section 22-54-103(10)(h) (as amended by SB 19 -176)

- (I) For the 2019-20 budget year and each budget year thereafter, with regard to a pupil who is simultaneously enrolled in a district or institute charter school and in one or more postsecondary courses, a district or institute charter school must submit evidence of:
  - A. Enrollment in the district or institute charter school and evidence, as provided in state board rule, of attendance for any secondary courses the pupil is enrolled in; and
  - B. Enrollment in one or more postsecondary courses, by submitting evidence, as described in state board rule, only of the district's or institute charter school's nonrefundable obligation to pay the student share of tuition for the postsecondary course on behalf of the pupil.

(II) The state board by rule shall specify the number of secondary and postsecondary course credit hours that constitute full-time and part-time membership.

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### Question from the Field

We have a student who is signed up to complete a concurrent enrollment course in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date, but the course is not scheduled to start until after the pupil enrollment count date. Is the student eligible for funding?

**Enrollment**

- Student must be enrolled w/district as of the pupil enrollment count date.

**Scheduled Hours/Credits**

- As long as the student is scheduled into a course as of the pupil enrollment count date, and that course is scheduled to be completed during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date, it can be used when determining funding eligibility for the student.

**Tuition Payment Verification**

- District must pay the non-refundable obligation of student's share of tuition.

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### Question from the Field

We have students who are taking concurrent enrollment courses through the Institution of Higher Education that follow an online and/or hybrid class structure. Is the student eligible for funding, and if so, what type of documentation do we need?

- Qualifying concurrent enrollment courses will be evaluated based on credit hours, regardless of the mode of instruction (i.e., in-person, hybrid or online). As with any concurrent enrollment course, the district must be able to provide tuition payment and credit hour verification (at the student level), as well as a cooperative agreement (at the district/IHE level) at the time of audit.

- Full-time funding = 12+ college credit hours
- Part-time funding = 3-11 college credit hours

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### Question from the Field

Can ASCENT funding be used to pay for concurrent enrollment courses taken by ASCENT students during the summer term?

Districts receive ASCENT funding based on what a student's schedule was as of the pupil enrollment count date FOR the semester of the pupil enrollment count date. Therefore, if a district allows an ASCENT student to take courses during the summer, the district should be aware that the credit hours taken by the student during the summer cannot be used to evidence scheduled credit hours in the semester of the pupil enrollment count date.

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### Data Reporting

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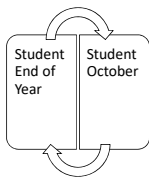
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### Data Reporting for ASCENT

- Data Reporting for ASCENT students can be tricky
- Requires coordination between Student End of Year and Student October Reporting.
- Student End of Year 2019-2020
  - Students planning to participate in ASCENT the following year:



- Student End of Year 2019-2020
- Student School Association File:
  - Entry Grade Level = 120 (12<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Retention Code = 2
  - Student Demographic File = 00

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### Data Reporting for ASCENT

- **Student October Data Reporting 2020-2021**
- If district is using a ½ carry forward and ½ current year slots to fund a student full-time:
  - RETENTION CODE = 0
  - NON-SCHOOL PROGRAM = 04 (Third Party Contract w/ IHE)
  - POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT = 10
  - PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE STATUS = 82

**Student October Snapshot Due:**  
**November 10, 2020**

✓ Student Demographic File:

- Postsecondary Enrollment = 01, 09, 10
  - 01 – ASCENT Current Year
  - 09 – ASCENT Carryforward Full-time
  - 10 – ASCENT Carryforward Part-time
- Student School Association File
  - Retention Code = 0
  - Non-School Program = 04 (Third Party Contract with IHE)
- Public School Finance Status
  - Carryforward = 87 (Non-Eligible, Tuition)
  - Current Year = 80, 82 (Full-time and Part-time)
    - Current Year students should be coded to receive funding

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### Data Reporting for ASCENT

#### Student October Cognos Reports

- **District Summary of Postsecondary Programs**
  - This report will show the number of ASCENT slots and ASCENT Carryforward slots assigned by CDE
  - The number of slots used and the difference
  - Can only be created once a Student October snapshot has been created

Colorado Department of Education  
District Summary of Post Secondary Programs

ASCENT Carryforward FTG slots used	0	0
ASCENT Carryforward FTG slots assigned	0	0
ASCENT Carryforward FTG slots used	0	0
ASCENT Carryforward FTG slots assigned	0	0
ASCENT Current year FTG slots used	0	0
ASCENT Current year FTG slots assigned	0	0
ASCENT Current year FTG slots used	0	0
ASCENT Current year FTG slots assigned	0	0
ASCENT Current Year Slots	0	0

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### Data Validation

- District staff are encouraged to work collaboratively to ensure accurate reporting of all ASCENT slots (both current year and carry forward).
- Postsecondary Program and Data Respondents should review the available Cognos report(s) to make sure that all ASCENT slots are accounted for.
- Misreporting of ASCENT students within Student October can result in an automatic audit exception.

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**ASCENT Student Graduation Rate Reporting**  
*HB17-1294*

... a qualified student who is an ASCENT program participant shall be counted in the enrolling school district's or institute charter school's graduation rate in the school year in which the student completes the school district's or institute charter school's minimum high school graduation requirements.

- Effective with the 2017-18 school year
- Will not change the existing ASCENT requirements re HS diploma:
  - cannot be **dated** until student has completed the ASCENT(5<sup>th</sup>) year;
  - cannot be **conferred** to student until 5<sup>th</sup> year has been completed;
  - **Transcript** grad date must reflect when 5<sup>th</sup> year was completed.
- Districts/Institute Charter Schools can decide to allow ASCENT student to participate in regular grad ceremonies without receiving an official diploma
- ASCENT appropriations are made to CDE for grade levels K-12; therefore ASCENT student must still be classified as high school student in 5<sup>th</sup> year to be eligible to receive ASCENT funding.

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**ASCENT Student Graduation Rate Reporting**  
*HB17-1294*

Student Completing their 4<sup>th</sup> year of High School?

- Met district's graduation requirements
- Retained for a 5<sup>th</sup> year to participate in approved postsecondary program (ASCENT/PTECH)
- Student End of Year Data 2019-2020
  - Exit Code of 90
  - Retention Code of 2

Please refer to page 12 of the 2020-21 Student Interchange File Layout – Student School Association for more details.

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**Dividing ASCENT Slots**

Guidance document link:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/dividing-ascent-slots>

- LEPs can offer ASCENT opportunities to more students than it has allocated slots i.e. dividing a full-time slot into two part-time slots for two separate students
- LEP's must assure that:
  - All students meet credit hour funding levels & are coded accurately in October Count and End-of-Year:
    - **3-11 credits = part-time**
    - **12+ credits = full-time**
  - All required audit documentation is collected and retained
- LEPs will only be eligible for a maximum ASCENT funding equal to the number of allocated ASCENT slots.
- Contact Mary Anne Hunter if you are considering dividing your slots to a dollar amount that covers less than part-time enrollment

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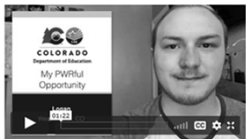
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**Hear From a Student**



**Hear From a School Counselor**



View More Videos

**Want more details?**  
[Learn more about ASCENT.](#)

**Still have more questions?**  
 Talk with your school counselor about the specifics of participating in ASCENT at your school.

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**For Students and Parents/Guardians**

**Jump to a Section:**

- [Student Eligibility](#)
- [Apply for an ASCENT slot](#)
- [Playing for College Courses](#)
- [District/Charter School Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Other Important Information](#)

**Student Eligibility**

What are the eligibility requirements that I must meet to participate in ASCENT?  
[View all eligibility requirements.](#)  
 You can also see eligibility requirements in the [Student's ASCENT Checklist \(DOC\)](#).

**Apply for an ASCENT slot**

How do I apply for an ASCENT slot?  
 You should check with your high school counselor:

- To see if your district/charter school participates in the ASCENT program, and if so
- What is the application process
- What are the deadlines
- To see if you can participate in ASCENT as a full-time or part-time student
- [View a copy of the Student's ASCENT Checklist \(DOC\)](#)

**How will my district/charter school determine if I am eligible to receive an ASCENT slot?**

Each district/charter school:

- Decides if they will participate in the ASCENT program - not all do
- Must request a certain number of ASCENT slots from the Colorado Department of Education each year to offer to their students
- Will determine how they will distribute those slots among their students
- See "District/Charter School Policies and Procedures" section below for more information
- Reviews your coursework, ICAP, and prerequisites to make sure you have met eligibility requirements

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**COLORADO**  
 Department of Education

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**QUESTIONS?**

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Thank You!

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