COLORADO
Department of Education

ASCENT Program
2020-21 Slot Request Process

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Topics

1. Program Eligibility & Basics

2. Slot Request Process

3. Funding & Documentation

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Accelerating Students through Concurrent ENrollmenT

Overview

Students who have completed at least 12 credit hours of postsecondary course prior to completion of his/her 12th grade year may be eligible for the ASCENT Program. They remain students in their Local Education Provider (LEP) for one year following their 12th grade year, and the LEP receives ASCENT specific per-pupil state funding that it uses to pay their college tuition at the resident community college rate. Students receive their high-school diplomas at the end of their ASCENT year. [C.R.S. § 22-35-108]

Students & Parents: please check with your high school counselor for specific information regarding how your school district administrates the ASCENT Program.

Fact Sheet & Comparison Chart
- ASCENT Fact Sheet (2017-18)
- ASCENT Map (2017-18)
- Comparison Chart: Concurrent Enrollment/ASCENT/Dual Enrollment (updated July 2018)

Training:
- ASCENT Student Coding Webinar 8/7/19
- ASCENT Student Coding webinar presentation (PDF)
- 2019-20 ASCENT Program Webinar Recording
- 2019-20 ASCENT Webinar Presentation
- ASCENT Training for Pupil Count Coordinators - Field Analyst Support Team (FAST)

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Students eligible for the ASCENT program must:

1. Completed at least 12 credit hours (semester hours or equivalent) of transcripted, credit-bearing, college-level postsecondary course work prior to the completion of 12th grade year
   - does not include IB, CLEP, prior learning, or experiential courses, unless these exams/experiences have been converted to transcripted credits on a college transcript - See **ASCENT Q&A for Advanced Placement (AP) courses**
   - Remedial/developmental education college courses do not qualify as part of the 12 required credits

2. Be in 5th year of high school

3. Not be in need of basic skills coursework in their selected pathway;

4. Have been selected for participation in the ASCENT program by his or her high school principal or equivalent school administrator;

5. Have satisfied the minimum prerequisites for the course(s) before his or her enrollment in the course(s), and;

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Students eligible for the ASCENT program must:

6. Have not participated in the ASCENT program in previous years - *can only participate for one academic year*

7. Maintain an updated Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP);

8. Sign up for the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend;

9. Apply to and be accepted to the college where he or she intends to concurrently enroll;

10. Receive selection notification from a district/charter school to participate in the ASCENT program on or before June 1st of the year preceding the ASCENT year;

11. Upon notification, register for college course(s), pay any applicable fee, and purchase books (if appropriate).

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Can ASCENT students receive fed/state financial aid at the IHE?

NO - student must still be classified as <u>high school student</u> during the 5th year by both the district and the IHE to be eligible for ASCENT

- Possibly private or institutional scholarships if they don't require student to be classified as a college student

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District/Charter Responsibilities

- Ensure student meets requirements during ASCENT year

- Determine any additional LEP defined standards/policies for eligibility/readiness (e.g. appropriate GPA, meeting LEP graduation requirements)
  - State policy does not require students to have met graduation requirements

- Submitting request does NOT guarantee full funding of request

- Help to determine if ASCENT is <u>best fit for student, both financially and in alignment with postsecondary goals</u>
  - Research career and/or military opportunities
  - Apply to relevant postsecondary institutions/programs
  - Apply for eligible scholarships
  - **COMPLETE THE FAFSA!**

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Concurrent Enrollment Expansion – SB19-176

C.R.S. 22-35-103(6)(a) states: "Concurrent enrollment" means the simultaneous enrollment….**at no tuition cost to the qualified student/parent/legal guardian**

- New ASCENT assurance:

I understand that the requirement of offering Concurrent Enrollment courses <u>at no tuition cost</u> to qualified students or qualified student's parent/legal guardian per C.R.S. 22-35-103 (6)(a) also applies to Concurrent Enrollment courses taken through the ASCENT Program.

- *Exception (22-35-105(4)(c)*: LEP may adopt policy that requires a qualified student/parent/legal guardian to sign a document prior to student's enrollment in CE course committing to tuition reimbursement to LEP in event student receives failing grade in course

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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(5th) year;
  - cannot be **conferred** to student until 5th year has been completed;
  - **Transcript** grad date must reflect when 5th 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 5th year to be eligible to receive ASCENT funding.
- *Please identify students participating in ASCENT by the end of May to ensure accurate End-of-Year reporting.*

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SLOT REQUEST PROCESS

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2020-21 ASCENT Slot Allocation Timeline

- **May 1:** Deadline for submission of Intent to Participate (ITP) form

- **End of May:** CDE emails notifications of ASCENT slot allocation for 2020-21

- **August 14:** Deadline to notify CDE of release of NEW slots to avoid receiving 2020-21 funding and carrying forward into 2021-22

- **Nov. 10:** Deadline for districts to accept Student October Count data collection SNAPSHOT

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Intent to Participate Form - *SurveyGizmo*

➢ Go to CDE ASCENT webpage for link

Accelerating Students through Concurrent ENrollmenT (ASCENT)

2020-21 Program Year INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

By completing and submitting this web form for the 2020-21 ASCENT program year to CDE **by no later than May 1, 2020** your district/ BOCES/district charter school/institute charter school (Local Education Provider [LEP]) is:

1. Agreeing to all of the student eligibility and LEP requirements as stated in C.R.S. 22-35-108 and the State Guidelines of the ASCENT Program;
2. Requesting ASCENT-specific per pupil state funding for an exact number of ASCENT slots;
3. Providing LEP's eligible signatory's e-signature; and
4. Providing your LEP's main ASCENT contact person's information.

A student is eligible for the ASCENT if the student:
- Has completed, or is on schedule to complete, at least 12 credit hours (semester hours or equivalent) of transcripted, credit-bearing, college-level postsecondary course work* prior to completing his/her 12th grade year. Remedial/developmental education college courses do not qualify as part of the 12 required credits;
- Is college ready, and not in need of basic skills coursework in accordance with the pathway in which she/he enrolls;
- Completes an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) prior to declaring intent to participate in ASCENT;
- Applies to and is accepted into a postsecondary degree program at a qualified Colorado institution of higher education;
- Has been selected for participation by his/her high school principal or equivalent school administrator; and
- Has not been designated an ASCENT program participant in any prior year (can only participate in ASCENT for 1 academic year).

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

Slot Request Section

3. **Fill in numbers for each item below.**

Please Note: *1 ASCENT slot = 1 full-time or 2 part-time students. Full-time student status = 12+ credit hours; Part- time status = 3-11 credit hours.*
*

Total number of **2019-20 carry-forward slots** that we will use during the 2020-21 award year:

Total number of **new** 2020-21 slots we are requesting:

Total number of slots we will utilize during the 2020-21 award year (total carry-forward slots plus total new slots):

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Assurances

✓ I understand that the requirement of offering Concurrent Enrollment courses at no tuition cost to qualified students or qualified student's parent/legal guardian per C.R.S. 22-35-103(6)(a) also applies to Concurrent Enrollment courses taken through the ASCENT Program.

✓ I understand that we are required to release any unused new 2020-21 slots that we may have *(if not planning to carry-forward into 2021-22)* to CDE **by August 14, 2020**.

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E-Sign

By E-Signing below you are agreeing to comply with the law and guidelines set forth for the ASCENT Program, and confirming your eligibility as a signatory for the LEP.

17. LEP eligible signatory e-signature *

Clear

Sign name using mouse or touch pad

Signature of

Submit

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Submission Confirmation

ASCENT Intent to Participate_2020-21

Thank You!

Thank you. You will receive a confirmation email verifying the submission of your 2020-21 ASCENT Intent to Participate form. Please save your confirmation for possible future reference.

Contact Mary Anne Hunter at Hunter_Mary@cde.state.co.us if you don't receive a confirmation email within 48 hours of your submission.

Fri 11/8/2019 2:06 PM
SurveyGizmo <noreply@surveygizmo.com>
2020-21 ASCENT Program Slot Request

To   Hunter, Mary Anne

This email serves as a confirmation that your 2020-21 ASCENT program Intent to Participate form has been submitted. Please save your confirmation email for possible future reference.

Thank you.

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Allocation Model

Initial
- Current school year participants = minimum of utilized during **current** school year

Remaining
- 1) New participants = up to 10 slots or # requested
- 2) FRL %
- 3) LEP or Charter School Size

Unused New Slots
- Need **more** = submit appeal to CDE
- Need **less** = release to CDE by **August 14, 2020**

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ASCENT Slot Funding
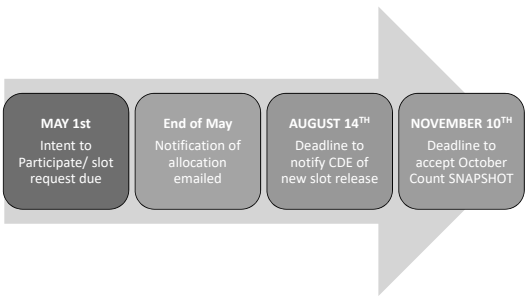
➢ 1 slot =   1 full-time student (12+ credit hours)

or

2 part-time students (3-11 credit hours each)

➢ ASCENT-specific per pupil state funding
- 2019-20 = $7790 full-time; $3895 part-time
- 2020-21 = ?? – May 2020 Long Bill

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Slot Request Timeline

MAY 1st	End of May	AUGUST 14TH	NOVEMBER 10TH
Intent to Participate/ slot request due	Notification of allocation emailed	Deadline to notify CDE of new slot release	Deadline to accept October Count SNAPSHOT

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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

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Attendance Verification (1)

Pursuant to Section 22-54-103(10)(h) as amended by SB19-176:
- Beginning with the 2019-20 school year
- Districts/charter schools will no longer be required to provide attendance verification from an IHE for postsecondary courses taken by their students through the Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT Programs
- However, districts/charter schools will still be responsible for providing documentation showing that they paid the student's share of tuition for the postsecondary course(s) to the IHE on behalf of the student, and credit hour verification

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Attendance Verification (2)

If a student is only enrolled in postsecondary course off-site at the IHE (in the case of ASCENT, P-TECH, and Early College students), the district and charter schools must provide documentation showing that:

- The student was enrolled with the district/charter school as of the pupil enrollment count date; and
- The student had a schedule as of the pupil enrollment count date that lists the course(s) the student was scheduled to take and complete during the semester of the pupil enrollment count date; and
- The district paid its nonrefundable obligation of the student's share of tuition directly to the IHE on the student's behalf. Documentation must include the number of credits for which the district/charter school paid in order to verify the student's funding level eligibility; and
- The district/charter school has executed a cooperative agreement with the IHE.

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Attendance Verification (3)

Districts and charter schools are still required to provide evidence of attendance for all students taking non-postsecondary courses even if a student is enrolled in both postsecondary courses off-site at the IHE and secondary courses at their high school.

This information has also been updated in the Student October Count Audit Resource Guide.

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Funding/Documentation Requirements (cont.)

- **Credit Hour Verification**
  - Funding eligibility for ASCENT students is determined by the number of college credit hours into which the student is enrolled 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 (cont.)

- **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 5th year of high school

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Question #1 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?

It depends. In order to be eligible for funding, the student must meet the membership AND the scheduled hours/credits requirements.

Membership/Attendance
- **Student must be enrolled with the district as of the pupil enrollment count date.**
- **Pursuant to Section 22-54-103(10)(h) as amended by SB19-176 evidence of attendance is no longer required for concurrent enrollment courses.**

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 in the funding determination for the student.**

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Question #2 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?

- **Any course taken through an IHE in which students are receiving both high school and college credit, AND the district has a cooperative agreement with the IHE and pays tuition directly to the IHE per the agreement will be evaluated as any other concurrent enrollment course (e.g., based on credit hours).**
- **Full-time funding = 12+ college credit hours**
- **Part-time funding = 3-11 college credit hours**

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Question #3, 4 and 5 from the Field

- What if an instructor cancels class during the 11 day count period?
- What if an instructor does not take daily attendance?
- What if our student does not get completed attendance forms submitted to the district shortly after the 11 day count period?

Pursuant to Section 22-54-103(10)(h) as amended by SB19-176
- **Beginning with the 2019-20 school year**
- **Districts/charter schools will <u>no longer be required</u> to provide attendance verification from an IHE for postsecondary courses taken by their students through the Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT Programs**
- **However, districts/charter schools will still be responsible for providing documentation showing that they paid the student's share of tuition for the postsecondary course(s) to the IHE on behalf of the student, and credit hour verification**

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Question #6 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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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 School Association File:
    - ENTRY GRADE LEVEL = 120 (12th Grade Students)
    - RETENTION CODE = 2
  - Student Demographic File:
    - POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT = 00

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Data Reporting for ASCENT

- **Student October Data Reporting 2020-2021**
  - Student Demographics 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 w/ 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

- 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)
  - PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE STATUS = 82
  - POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT = 10

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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

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ASCENT Student Graduation Rate Reporting
HB 17-1294

Students completing their 4th year of high school, who have met their district's graduation requirements and are being retained for a 5th year to participate in an approved postsecondary program (including ASCENT) should be reported in the district's <u>End-of-Year</u> data submission with:

• **Exit Code of 90,** and

• **Retention Code of 2**.

➤ Please refer to pages 11 & 12 of the <u>2019-20 Student Interchange File Layout – Student School Association</u> for more details.

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Thank you!

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