

John W. Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program

Fact Sheet



Introduction

Students from traditionally underrepresented groups and low-income students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds who perform well in school do not enroll in advanced classes at the same rate as their peers, regardless of preparedness. All students deserve the opportunity to learn higher-level content. In addition, students who have access to a rigorous curriculum perform better across multiple measures, including graduating high school and completing higher education.

The John W. Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant Program, [Senate Bill 19-059](#), is intended to increase the number of students enrolled in advanced courses for subjects in which the student has demonstrated proficiency.

The first year of funding for the program was the 2019-20 school year, with the last year of funding planned to be the 2021-22 school year. However, the legislature has continued to provide funding each year.

Funding and Participation

As in previous years, approximately \$220,000 is available for the 2024-25 fiscal year, and grants will be awarded for a one-year period. Funding in subsequent years is contingent upon continued appropriations and grantees meeting all grant, fiscal, and reporting requirements.

Allowable services or activities include:

- Expanding the number of advanced courses offered by the Local Education Provider, including the use of technology to increase the number of advanced courses offered;
- Incentivizing teachers to teach advanced courses, including teacher training and professional development in areas relating to advanced course instruction;
- Developing advanced course curriculum; and
- Expanding parent and student awareness of advanced course availability and enrollment as well as student success in advanced courses.

Prohibited use of funds includes hiring new teachers for the purpose of teaching advanced courses.

Eligibility

A Local Education Provider (LEP) is eligible for the grant program if it automatically enrolls each student entering the ninth grade or higher in an advanced course based on any of the following criteria:

- The student achieved a score that is equivalent to, or exceeds, meeting or exceeding expectations on the state assessment that was administered for the preceding academic year.
- Any other measure, applied to all students enrolled in a LEP that, in the judgment of the LEP, is an indicator that a student demonstrates the ability to succeed in an advanced course.

School districts, schools, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services and charter schools can apply for this grant. If a district applies, a school operating within that district may not submit a standalone application. A school can apply only if its district does not intend to apply.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- For more information, including an FAQ and use of funds examples, visit the John W. Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses webpage: www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/autoenrollment
- For questions, contact Alena Barczak at barczak_a@cde.state.co.us or 303-548-8427



Grantees

	Applicant	Selected for Funding?	Funds Requested	Funds Awarded
Year 1 (2019-20)	George Washington High School (DPS)	Yes	\$12,100	\$12,100
	John F. Kennedy High School (DPS)	Yes	\$41,910	\$41,910
	Northfield High School (DPS)	Yes	\$86,550	\$86,550
	Thomas Jefferson High School (DPS)	No	\$20,000	n/a
	Calhan School District RJ-1	Yes	\$21,249	\$21,249
	Paonia High School (Delta County SD 50J)	Yes	\$25,850	\$25,850
				Total Requested: \$207,659
Year 2 (2020-21): no funding	---	---	---	---
Year 3 (2021-22)	John F. Kennedy High School (DPS)	Yes	\$39,700	\$44,792.16
	Fremont School District RE-2	Yes	\$4,825	\$5,802.09
	Sierra High School (Harrison RE-2)	Yes	\$29,104	\$32,259.64
	Northeast BOCES	Yes	\$78,850	\$78,850
				Total Requested: \$152,479
Year 4 (2022-23)	Aspen School District 1	No	\$69,344	n/a
	Canon City School District RE-1	Yes	\$59,063	\$41,398
	Fort Morgan School District RE-3	Yes	\$92,470	\$64,814
	John F. Kennedy High School (DPS)	No	\$57,500	n/a
	Littleton School District 6	Yes	\$50,000	\$35,046
	Steamboat Montessori School (Charter School Institute)	Yes	\$39,951	\$28,002
	Woodland Park School District RE-2	Yes	\$72,389	\$50,739
			Total Requested: \$440,717	Total Awarded: \$219,999
Year 5 (2023-24)	Adams Arapahoe 28-J: Hinkley High School	Yes	\$36,531	\$35,909
	Fremont School District RE-2	Yes	\$11,334.80	\$11,142
	Garfield County School District 16	Yes	\$21,260	\$20,898
	Harrison School District RE-2	Yes	\$20,087	\$14,809
	Littleton School District 6	No	\$15,000	n/a
	Steamboat Montessori School	Yes	\$52,187.70	\$51,300
	Woodland Park School District RE-2	Yes	\$88,500	\$86,994
			Total Requested: \$242,419.50	Total Awarded: \$221,052

Reporting

Grantees are required to submit an annual report to the Department of Education that includes:

- The number of students enrolled in advanced courses before and after implementation of the grant program;
- The number of students automatically enrolled in advanced courses by the local education provider before and after implementation of the grant program;
- Demographic information of students automatically enrolled in advanced courses, including grade, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic information before and after implementation of the grant program;
- The number of students in grades 4-8 automatically enrolled in advanced courses before and after implementation of the grant program if applicable; and
- The ways in which grant dollars were utilized.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this reporting requirement was waived for the first cohort of grantees (2019-20). During the second year of the grant (2020-21), funding was not provided due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Annual reports have been received for the third cohort (2021-22) and fourth cohort (2022-23).