

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Frequently Asked Questions

Are concurrent enrollment options available in every school or district?

Yes. Colorado Statute requires local education providers to offer concurrent enrollment options to their eligible students.

How does an institution of higher education determine that the student is qualified for admission?

- The institutions of higher education will utilize existing procedures and/or those in the cooperative agreement to determine if a student is qualified.
- Administrative approval is required at the high school level before a student can register for a class through concurrent enrollment.

Are the rules for participation different if the class is held at the high school?

No. If the class is for college credit, the same participation rules apply regardless of the location of the class.

Does the Accuplacer exam have to be taken before enrollment?

- The legislation does not require a specific test; however, a student who intends to concurrently enroll in a postsecondary course must satisfy the minimum prerequisites for the course before enrollment.
- The institution may require testing or other means to demonstrate preparedness and students with disabilities may qualify for assessment accommodations.

What is the district's obligation to students enrolled in concurrent enrollment, ASCENT, and TREP?

- Students who participate in concurrent enrollment programs are still considered high school students.
- School districts remain responsible for providing services as outlined in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) within the secondary context.
- The IEP should explicitly state the role of school district personnel in supporting concurrent enrollment, ASCENT, and TREP students and the role of the postsecondary institution.
- School district personnel are not required to provide services to students on college campuses.

How will compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) be addressed in concurrent enrollment programs?

- Concurrent enrollment, ASCENT, and TREP courses are considered postsecondary education.
- Therefore, requirements under the IDEA concerning Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) do not apply.
- Postsecondary students are covered under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

What is the difference between a 504 plan and an IEP?

Although both plans provide accommodations, an IEP provides specialized instruction for students in grades K-12, while a 504 plan can serve students at both the K-12 and college levels.

Should a district automatically exit a student from special education services and put a student on a 504 plan?

No. This decision should be made case-by-case and may only be determined following a re-evaluation and team decision. IEP teams may need to amend service provisions to fit student needs and placement.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Do the accommodations listed in the student's IEP automatically apply to college classes?

No. It is important to remember that the IEP does not continue to college or the workplace.

- Some accommodations provided at the high school may also be appropriate at the college level.
- However, at the high school, there may be supports and services provided that go beyond reasonable accommodation and would not be appropriate at the college level.

Does the IEP team make decisions about accommodations provided in college classes?

No. Although the IEP team plays a role in providing recommendations and documentation for requested accommodations, the college will make decisions about the accommodations provided in college classes.

What is the process for obtaining accommodations in concurrent enrollment, ASCENT, and TREP courses?

The student must:

- apply to the office of Disability Services at the college to self-identify and disclose their disability;
- request accommodations; and,
- provide the necessary documentation.

The IEP may be used to document the student's disability. It may be appropriate for the special education teacher to assist the student in this process as a transition service.

If a student is eligible for interpreter services or text in an alternate format, does the college or the high school provide these services?

- The college is responsible for providing any accommodation for the college class upon approval. However, there may be reasons for the college and the school district to collaborate on some services.
- Roles and responsibilities related to specific accommodations should be clearly defined in the concurrent enrollment agreement developed between the school, student, and parent.

Is a student with disabilities held to the same grade requirements as other students?

Yes. Students with disabilities are held to the same academic and behavioral performance standards.

Can a student audit a class at an institution of higher education?

Yes. This would not be considered Concurrent Enrollment.

- Only classes that are taken for both high school and college credit are considered Concurrent Enrollment.
- To determine funding eligibility, a class would adhere to the requirements of contractual education services as outlined in the Student October Count Audit Resource Guide.



More information about Concurrent Enrollment, ASCENT, and TREP can be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>

General information about Concurrent Enrollment, ASCENT, and TREP for students and parents can be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/concurrentenrollment>

More information about the funding requirements related to Concurrent Enrollment, ASCENT, and TREP can be found in the [2023-2024 Student October Count Audit Resource Guide](#)

This CDE guidance document is meant for clarification, is not legally binding, and is not to be confused with legal advice. This guidance reflects CDE's recommendations, but Administrative Units (AUs) may have developed their own policies or procedures that differ from those described herein. Be sure to refer to your local AU's policies and procedures through the Director of Special Education. If you are seeking legal advice, please contact your legal counsel.

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