

**TABLE 3: Concurrent Enrollment Programs, Prior School Year Comparison**

Public Institution of Higher Education	Number of students, 2018-2019	Number of students, 2019-2020	Change in number of students	Percentage change
<b>TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS</b>				
Aims Community College	2,389	2,838	449	18.8%
Arapahoe Community College	6,172	7,925	1,753	28.4%
Colorado Northwestern Community College	617	533	-84	-13.6%
Community College of Aurora	4,775	5,488	713	14.9%
Community College of Denver	1,700	1,791	91	5.4%
Front Range Community College	5,865	7,289	1,424	24.3%
Lamar Community College	298	338	40	13.4%
Morgan Community College	561	636	75	13.4%
Northeastern Junior College	355	350	-5	-1.4%
Otero Junior College	464	536	72	15.5%
Pikes Peak Community College	2,813	3,139	326	11.6%
Pueblo Community College	1,908	2,310	402	21.1%
Red Rocks Community College	2,435	2,606	171	7.0%
Trinidad State Junior College	756	714	-42	-5.6%
<b>AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES (ATCS)*</b>				
Emily Griffith Technical College	258	215	-43	-16.7%
Pickens Technical College	444	368	-76	-17.1%
Technical College of the Rockies	86	94	8	9.3%
<b>FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS</b>				
Adams State University	201	286	85	42.3%
Colorado Mesa University**	1,006	1,014	8	0.8%
Colorado Mountain College	1,749	1,615	-134	-7.7%
Colorado State University	4	17	13	325.0%
Colorado State University - Pueblo	114	139	25	21.9%
Fort Lewis College	114	124	10	8.8%
Metropolitan State University of Denver	614	720	106	17.3%
University of Colorado Boulder	36	45	9	25.0%
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	35	21	-14	-40.0%
University of Colorado Denver	44	33	-11	-25.0%
University of Northern Colorado	4	38	34	850.0%
Western Colorado University	469	972	503	107.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,307</b>	<b>40,775</b>	<b>5,468</b>	<b>15.5%</b>

Note: All counts at each level are unduplicated. Sub-totals and Grand Total are unduplicated counts by each dual enrollment type (adding counts in columns may lead to duplicated counts due to enrollments of the same student at multiple institutions during the academic year). Adding counts in columns may not equal sub-totals or Grand Total.

Counts throughout the report may differ based upon multiple enrollments and descriptive reporting.

\*School Year 2018-2019 is the first year that data for all ATCS have been available in SURDS which represents a more accurate count than previous years.

\*\*Colorado Mesa University includes a two-year college, Western Colorado Community College (WCCC). As a part of its system, some of the Concurrent Enrollment students counted here may be enrolled in the two-year program, not the four-year program.

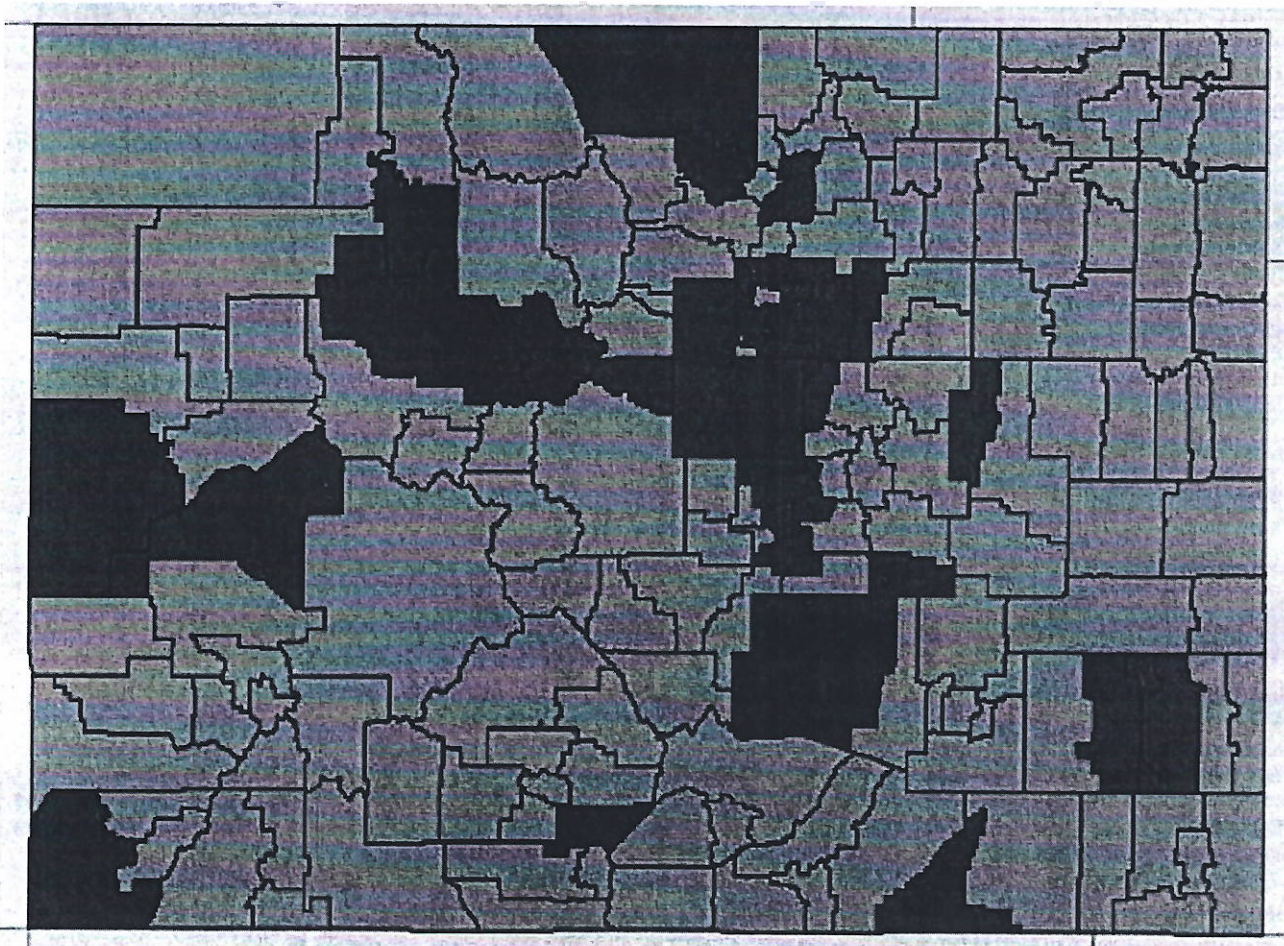
## Accelerating Students through Concurrent ENrollment (ASCENT)

The ASCENT program provides an opportunity for students to continue to participate in Concurrent Enrollment in the year directly following their 12<sup>th</sup>-grade year or the fifth year of high school.

In school year 2019-2020, 42 LEAs participated in this program with a total enrollment of 554 students. A list of the districts and the unduplicated headcount of participating students can be found [online](#).

CDE October Count data were used in this section of the report to align with the amount of funding received by LEAs for ASCENT participation. As students can participate part-time, the unduplicated headcount may be larger than the total full-time equivalent (FTE) funded by the legislature. Additionally, recent changes allow for ASCENT students to be counted in a district's "on-time, four-year" high school graduating cohort.

**FIGURE 4:** Map of School Districts Participating in ASCENT, 2019-2020





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### Summary:

Under current law, a qualified student who is selected to participate in the accelerating students through concurrent enrollment (ASCENT) program may enroll in postsecondary courses while also being enrolled and funded by their school district, board of cooperative services, or charter school (local education provider), following the student's fourth year of high school. Currently the number of students who are selected to participate in the ASCENT program is limited each year through the budget process.

This bill removes the limit on the number of program participants and allows all qualified students to participate in the program. The bill reduces the number of postsecondary credits a qualified student must have completed to be eligible to participate in the ASCENT program. It also includes a distribution to each local education provider of an amount equal to 3% of the per-pupil extended high school funding amount to pay for non-tuition expenses the qualified student incurs in participating in the postsecondary courses.

Under existing law, a qualified student who fails to complete a concurrent enrollment course must repay the local education provider for the amount of tuition, and the provider may require a student to repay the tuition amount if the student earns a failing grade for a concurrent enrollment course. The bill also repeals these provisions.



"My name is Marisa Beltran, a first-generation American and graduate student from Pueblo, Colorado. My family did not have the means for a college savings account, so when my high school allowed me to go to college while being in high school, it seemed like a dream come true. At my high school graduation my family shed tears of happiness knowing that I had completed not only a high school diploma, but also had 60 college credits to continue my higher education. That was two years that my family and I did not have to worry about, two years of working overtime, two years of budgeting, two years of 'stretching the milk' as my mother would say, that was not needed. My parents had no idea how they could provide the college education they wanted to give me, but being offered the opportunity to go to college in high school, reminded us that we, a blue collar family can go to college too."

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**Please Support HB22-1002**  
**Expanding Access to ASCENT Concurrent Enrollment**  
Reps. Weissman & Bacon + Sen. Buckner

*ASCENT – Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment – was created in 2009 as part of an overhaul of the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act. ASCENT allows qualifying Concurrent Enrollment (“CE”) students to take college level courses for a “5<sup>th</sup> year” while still being treated as a high school student, thus making post high school credential attainment faster and more affordable. However, for most of ASCENT’s history, only 500 students per year have been able to take advantage of this opportunity. HB22-1002 proposes to eliminate this cap, while making other changes to facilitate ASCENT utilization.*

**Background**

- 175 of 178 districts participated in CE in the 2019-20 school year – 40, 098 students
- 42 local education providers participated in ASCENT in 2019-20 – 554 students
- Nearly 40% of ASCENT students identify as Hispanic
- 97% of ASCENT students enrolled in a credential-seeking program

**Issues**

- **Limited Access** – actual demand for ASCENT slots has averaged >750 each of the last 3 years, but only 500 slots are funded
- **Timing Uncertainties** – uncertainty about # of slots funded by GA; # of slots allocated to each district; and which students will receive an ASCENT slot impacts student & family decision making about post grade 12 plans
- **Increasing Cost of Traditional Pathways** – 2021-22 tuition + fees at CO colleges average \$20,356.

**What HB22-1002 Does**

- **Expand Access** – instead of funding only a limited number of slots, HB22-1002 embodies a commitment from the state to fund the ASCENT year for any student who is eligible.
- **Remove Uncertainty** – by removing funding and allocation uncertainties, students and their families will better be able to plan for post grade 12 educational & career options
- **Reduce Student Cost** – by committing to cover ASCENT-year tuition and, newly, some related expenses like books, HB22-1002 will make achieving a post high school credential more feasible especially for students from lower income backgrounds.

**Section by Section Summary**

- 1 – fund ASCENT year for any qualifying student designated by LEP; require 6 prior credit hours instead of 12 – 3% allowance for non-tuition expenses (e.g., books, fees, transportation)
- 2 – remove ability for a district to requirement repayment of funds due to non-completion
- 3 – conforming amendment
- 4 – conforming amendment
- 5 – conforming amendment
- 6 – conforming amendment
- 7 – conforming amendment
- 8 – conforming amendment
- 9 – safety clause (so the bill is effective in time for the 22-23 school year)