

ASCENT Eligibility Fact Sheet

In May 2009, the Colorado State Legislature passed House Bill 09-1319 and Senate Bill 09-285, known as the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act to redefine rules and policies for concurrent enrollment programs statewide. Beyond coordinating and clarifying the existing concurrent enrollment programs, the bill also creates the "5th year" ASCENT program for students retained by the high school for instruction beyond the senior year.

In order to participate in the program, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

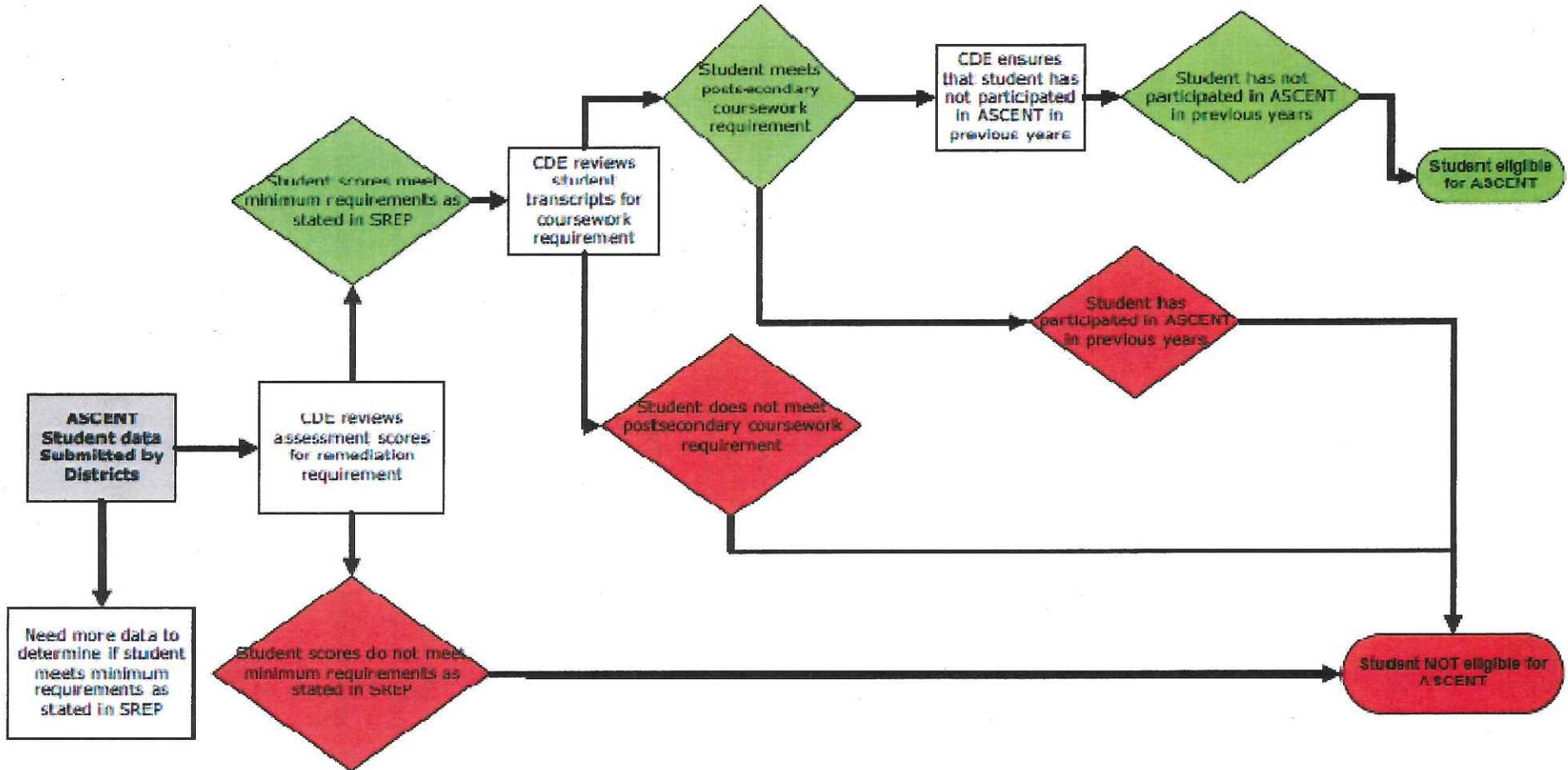
- Has completed or is on schedule to complete at least 12 credit hours (semester hours or equivalent) of postsecondary course work prior to the completion of his or her 12th grade year;
- Is not in need of basic skills coursework as defined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's (CCHE) remedial education policy;
- Has been selected for participation in the ASCENT program by his or her high school principal or equivalent school administrator;
- Has satisfied the minimum prerequisites for the course before his or her enrollment in the course; and
- Has not participated in the ASCENT program in previous years.

In order to ensure financial transparency and accountability for this program, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and local education providers will complete the following steps to verify student eligibility according to the criteria above:

1. In September of each year, local education providers submit to CDE a list of current 12th graders who will be eligible for the ASCENT program during the upcoming school year, i.e. current seniors who plan to remain enrolled at the high school in order to participate in a dual degree or 5th year program
2. In February of each year, districts who submitted a list of eligible students will receive a request from CDE for an updated number of eligible students and student data which includes the SASID number, first and last names, and date of birth.
3. At the time of data submission, districts will be asked to sign off to confirm that they have verified that the students submitted have met all eligibility criteria.
4. CDE will then follow up with school districts who provided incomplete information.
5. If local education providers do not confirm that they verified student data prior to submission, this information will be subject to a review by CDE.
6. If local education providers confirmed that they verified student data prior to submission, CDE will only review data on a random basis.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Judith Martinez, Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Engagement Colorado Department of Education, 303-866-6127, or Martinez_j@cde.state.co.us

ASCENT Eligibility Flowchart



State Remedial Education Policy (SREP): Minimum ACT/SAT/Accuplacer scores a student needs to have to enroll in college-level courses:

- ACT: 19 or higher in math; 18 or higher in writing; 17 or higher in reading
- SAT: 430 or higher on SAT Verbal for reading; 440 or higher on SAT Verbal for writing; 460 or higher on SAT Math
- Accuplacer: 85 or higher on Accuplacer Elementary Algebra; 95 or higher on Accuplacer Sentence Skills; 80 or higher on Accuplacer Reading Comprehension

Postsecondary Coursework Requirement: To participate in ASCENT, a student must have completed (or be on schedule to complete) at least 12 credit hours of postsecondary coursework prior to the completion of the 12th grade year.