



ASCENT

Let us pay for your first
year of college

Apply here



WHAT IS ASCENT?

Accelerating **S**tudents through **C**oncurrent **E**nrollment (**ASCENT**) is a fifth-year high school program that allows students to take concurrent enrollment courses at college/university the year after 12th grade. **It is a free program paid for by the State of Colorado and Cherry Creek School District.** **ASCENT** provides a unique opportunity for students to earn a postsecondary credential, helping students develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to be postsecondary and workforce ready. ASCENT slots are capped by the Colorado Department of Education.

ASCENT QUALIFICATIONS: A student is eligible if the student:

- Has completed, or is on schedule to complete at least **9 credit hours** (semester hours or equivalent) of transcribed, credit-bearing, college-level postsecondary coursework* prior to completing their 12th grade year. *Developmental education college courses do not qualify as part of the 9 required credits.*
- Is **college ready**, and not in need of developmental coursework in accordance with the pathway in which they enroll.
- Has not been designated an ASCENT program participant in any prior year (a student can only **participate in ASCENT for 1 academic year**).
- Applies to and is accepted into a postsecondary degree program at a **qualified Colorado institution of higher education**.
- Applies for FAFSA/CASFA.**

*Does not include International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Education Program (CLEP), prior learning, or experiential courses, unless these exams/experiences have been converted to transcribed credits on a college transcript. The home high school counselor will help students with credits that need to be transcribed.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Students accepted into ASCENT will have tuition, fees and books paid for Fall and Spring immediately following their senior year, at a Colorado post-secondary school approved by CCSD.

Current schools include Metro State University, University of Northern Colorado, Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Arapahoe Community College, Red Rocks Community College as well as Emily Griffith and Pickens Technical Colleges.

A student accepted remains in the CCSD system as a senior for one additional academic year following 12th grade. They will then enroll in a postsecondary degree program. ASCENT credits and grades will be added to the high school transcript and the college transcript.

Students will receive their high school diploma after completion of the ASCENT year with the graduation date when they exit ASCENT. Students can socially graduate with their original graduating class.