

# Elizabeth School District ASCENT Program FAQs

## **Q: What is ASCENT?**

**A:** ASCENT stands for Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment. It is a 5<sup>th</sup> year high school program that allows eligible students to take a full schedule of college course work immediately following the senior year of high school, and the tuition is paid by the district. ASCENT students are co-enrolled at both the high school and college, although they do not attend any classes at the high school.

## **Q: What does the ASCENT program cover?**

**A:** The school district will pay for tuition, not to exceed the in-state community college rate, up to 12 college credit hours per semester. Books, fees, transportation costs, and any tuition costs exceeding the covered amount are the responsibility of the student.

## **Q: Who is eligible for ASCENT?**

**A:** Any student who will meet district graduation requirements by the end of their senior year (4<sup>th</sup> year of high school) and have successfully completed at least 12 transcribed college credits while in high school, and not be in need of remediation while in college.

## **Q: How do I earn the necessary 12 college credits while in high school?**

**A:** Successful completion of Pickens Technical College courses or through one of our Community Colleges.

## **Q: How do I know that I am not in need of remediation?**

**A:** Students must satisfy the minimum prerequisites for the course prior to his or her enrollment in the course. Evidence will include meeting ONE of the following requirements:

\***ACT Scores:** 19 or higher in Math; 18 or higher in English; 17 or higher in Reading. OR:

\***SAT Scores:** 430 or higher on SAT Verbal for Reading; 440 or higher on SAT Verbal for Writing; 460 or higher on SAT Math. OR:

\*The student has successfully completed (C- or higher) a **college-level mathematics and college-level writing** course. OR:

\*The student is enrolled in **Career and Technical Education courses** that do not require the student to meet SREP requirements.

## **Q: Can I participate in ASCENT and still play college sports?**

**A:** No. With regard to college activities, qualified students may participate in activities (including club sports) but are not eligible for NCAA athletics. ASCENT students may not participate in activities or sports of any kind at the high school.

## **Q: As an ASCENT student, will I still earn my diploma?**

**A:** Yes. However, the Colorado Department of Education requires that we hold the student's high school diploma and not count them as a graduate until the student has finished the ASCENT program. Once the student completes the ASCENT program, they will receive their diploma. ASCENT students may walk with their class at the graduation ceremony.

## **Q: Which colleges can I attend as an ASCENT student?**

**A:** ASCENT students can attend any public two-year or four-year college in Colorado, if they have been accepted by the college. However, ASCENT students may not accept financial aid packages or some scholarships. Please keep that in mind when making college choices.

## **Q: How many classes can I take as an ASCENT student?**

**A:** ASCENT students must register for a minimum of 12 college credit hours each semester. Students may choose to register for more, but payment of additional tuition will be the responsibility of the student.

## **Q: When do I find out if I have been accepted for ASCENT?**

**A:** ASCENT applications are due March 12, 2018; in the Counseling Office. The state does not set their budget until June, so official notification will be sent out at that time. Due to the late notice of state funding, Elizabeth High School ***strongly*** recommends that all ASCENT-interested students complete all college applications and federal financial aid applications by the applicable deadlines, to keep options open.