

PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 138

CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE ACCELERATING STUDENTS THROUGH CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (ASCENT)

SENATE SPONSORS: DONOVAN – PASSED SENATE 35-0, 31 ADDED CO-SPONSORS

HOUSE SPONSOR: WILSON

WHAT DOES SB 138 DO?

- As amended in the House, SB 138 permits school districts to use ASCENT funds at any time during the fiscal year.
- SB 138 will provide administrative flexibility that will allow more students to benefit from the program.

WHY ARE THESE CHANGES IMPORTANT?

- Currently, ASCENT students must wait until late in the school year, usually late April or May, to receive confirmation of their funding status.
- Priority registration, tuition deposit requirements, and scholarship deadlines often occur in the middle of the spring academic term.
- The late timing of award notifications has compromised the effectiveness of the ASCENT program.

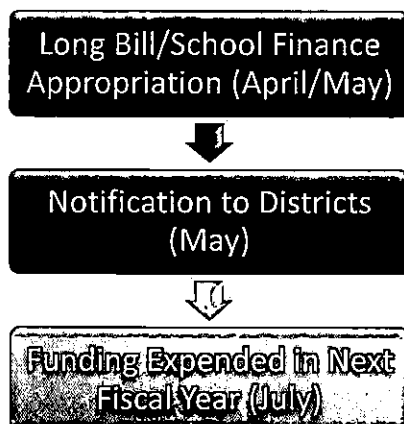
WHAT WILL IT COST?

- As amended, SB 138 creates no new fiscal impact.
- The bill simply allows school districts to use ASCENT funds at any time during the fiscal year, for current "5th year" students or those preparing to transition into the ASCENT program in the following academic year.

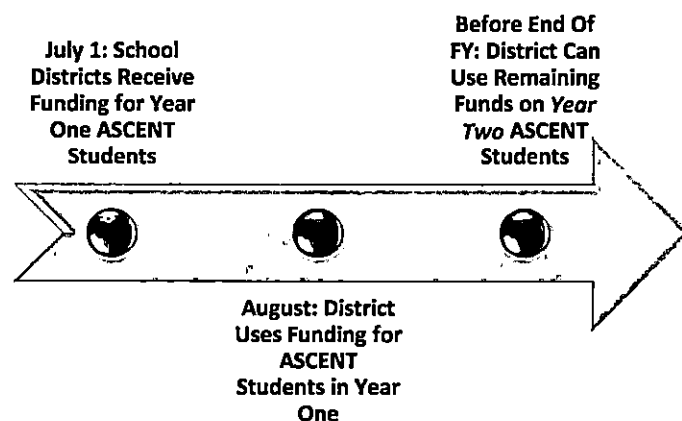
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- ASCENT was created in 2009 as the nation's first official "5th year" concurrent enrollment program.
- As much as 40% of the students who are eligible for the ASCENT program do not to participate in large part to the timing of the awards.

Current Funding Allocation

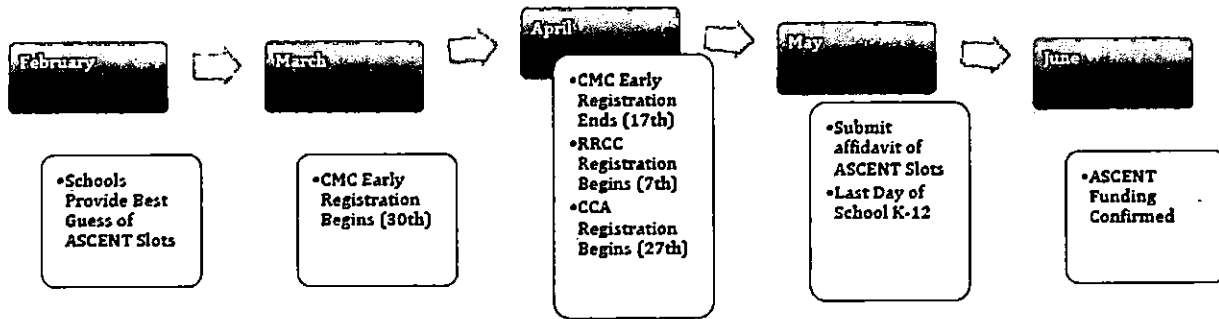


SB-138 ASCENT Flexibility



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Up to June 30 a local education provider may spend ASCENT funding on behalf of students who are admitted to an institution of higher learning the next budget year.



CMC - Colorado Mountain College
CCA - Community College of Aurora
RRCC - Red Rocks Community College