



Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff

HB17-1294

## FISCAL NOTE

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-1093  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Weissman

**Date:** March 30, 2017  
**Bill Status:** House Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

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**BILL TOPIC:** COUNTING ASCENT PROGRAM STUDENTS IN GRADUATION RATE

### Summary of Legislation

Under current law, a student participating in the Accelerating Students Through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) program is not considered a high school graduate until he or she complete the program, and satisfy any remaining graduation requirements specified by his or her local education provider. The ASCENT program permits a student to remain enrolled in high school for up to two additional years in order to complete the requirements for an associate degree. This bill requires that an ASCENT student be counted as a high school graduate in the year in which the student completes a local education provider's minimum high school graduation requirements.

### Assessment

Under this bill, ASCENT students will now be shown as graduating up to two years ahead of the date on which these students can graduate under current law. Since the student remains enrolled in the program, and districts continue to receive state funding at the same fixed amount for each ASCENT student, the bill will have no impact on school finance. The bill's technical change allowing for the inclusion of eligible students in a high school's graduation rate does not impact the revenue, expenditures, or workload of any state agency, local government, or school district. For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

### Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

### State and Local Government Contacts

Education

School Districts