



# Financial Aid for Students with In-state Tuition

HB19-1196: Sponsored by Representative Gonzales-Gutierrez and Senator Moreno

In 2013, the Colorado legislature passed **Advancing Students for a Stronger Tomorrow (ASSET)**, which allows eligible students to pay in-state tuition at Colorado's public colleges and universities as long as they have:

- Attended a Colorado high school for three years prior to graduating;
- Been admitted to a participating college within 12 months of graduating; and
- Signed an affidavit saying that they are seeking or will seek legal status as soon as they are eligible.



ASSET students cannot receive state financial aid, putting the financial burden on institutions to support some of their brightest students.



This proposal expands state financial aid access to all students in Colorado who meet the qualifications for in-state tuition, as outlined in CRS 23-7-110.

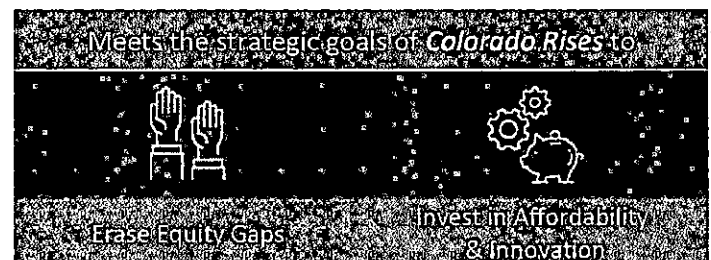


Provide all Coloradans who participate in Colorado's economy with equal access to affordable postsecondary education.

ASSET students are currently eligible for the College Opportunity Fund and institutional aid, but they are not eligible for state aid, including need-based financial aid and scholarships awarded by the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI). There are approximately 1,350 Colorado residents whose families have payed taxes and contributed to the Colorado economy that have benefited through in-state tuition status.

Although in-state tuition status is essential, it is not enough to provide some students with the necessary financial support to attain a higher education. ASSET students and families would benefit from additional support through state financial aid programs to ensure future academic and financial success.

Colorado's Master Plan for higher education, *Colorado Rises*, calls for **66 percent of the population to have a credential of value by 2025** to meet Colorado's workforce demands and keep pace with the current labor market. Embedded within the Master Plan is the goal to erase equity gaps by 2025 for Colorado's minority student populations.



The current attainment rate is 29 percent for Hispanic students, 39 percent for African American Students and 29 percent for Native American students. Reaching the 66 percent goal will require significant improvements in access to higher education. Currently, **only 44 percent of Hispanic students in the class of 2016 went on to enroll in a postsecondary institution**. Colorado must do more to ensure students who attended our public schools can access higher education.

## For More Information

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