



ASCENT Participation Cap Update

Data Reporting Implications

Overview

Per [HB24-1393](#), starting in the 2025-2026 school year, ASCENT participation is capped by district at the rate of participation for that district in the 2024-2025 school year. This cap is based on the actual number of ASCENT students submitted in the 2024-2025 Student October collection for that district. If a district does not use all their slots each year, slots cannot be reallocated to other districts.

[For more information, see the ASCENT Program Update site.](#)

Data Reporting and Coding

This change means accurate data reporting of ASCENT students in the 2024-2025 Student October collection is crucial. ASCENT coding in 2024-2025 Student October requires accurate reporting of retention codes for students in the 2023-2024 Student End of Year collection. This guide highlights the coding implications for these two collections in preparation for the 2025-2026 ASCENT caps.

General Expectations

- Students returning to participate in ASCENT meet the program requirements for ASCENT. [See the ASCENT site for more information.](#)
- Students must participate in ASCENT at the same district they attended in their 4th year of high school.
- Students participating in ASCENT are in their 5th year per Anticipated Year of Graduation (AYG).
 - Examples:
 - Only AYG 2024 students are eligible to participate in ASCENT in the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Only AYG 2025 students will be eligible to participate in ASCENT in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Districts indicate students who will return for ASCENT the next school year in the Student End of Year collection with retention code 2.
- Districts indicate students who are participating in ASCENT in the current year Student October collection with the appropriate postsecondary program enrollment code and funding code.
- Students who participate in ASCENT remain coded with the appropriate postsecondary program enrollment code in the current year Student End of Year collection. This collection has specific school exit type requirements.

Student End of Year Collection (2023-2024)

The SEY collection indicates students who will participate in ASCENT the following year using **retention code 2** (grade 12 student returning to participate in a postsecondary program the following year). Without the use of this retention code, districts will receive errors in the subsequent student October collection (2024-2025). To clear these OCT 2024-2025 errors, districts will need to correct their 2023-2024 SEY retention code. This collection is open through November 17, 2024. Districts are strongly encouraged to review retention codes during the Cross LEA phase (9/19/24 to 10/17/24) as any updates to this field during the Post-Cross LEA phase (10/23/24 to 11/17/24) are extremely limited and require manual updates by the district respondent and SEY collection lead.



The Student End of Year CEDAR/COGNOS report *SASID Lookup: SEY and OCT record (prior, current, subsequent year)* is designed to support districts when comparing coding from SEY 2023-2024 to OCT 2024-2025. Lookup the student by SASID, selecting the school year 2023-2024, to review the retention code usage in 2023-2024 SEY against the postsecondary program coding in OCT 2024-2025 once your district has begun working on the OCT 2024-2025 collection.

Section 5 of the SEY collection manual outlines the complete coding pattern for ASCENT students as districts have options regarding the school exit type used in conjunction with retention code 2. [Visit the Student End of Year website to review the SEY collection manual.](#)

Student October Collection (2024-2025)

The Student October collection indicates students who are actively participating in ASCENT. To indicate students participating in ASCENT, districts must code these students with a Postsecondary Code of '01' with an appropriate Public School Finance Funding Status Code. Each Public School Finance Funding Status Code will equate to a certain slot allotment, full-time or part-time. Full-time finance codes will add a 1.0 allotment while part-time will add a 0.5 allotment to your total. Please visit the [2024-2025 Student School Association File Layout on the Student Interchange Website](#) for more information regarding Public School Finance Funding Status Codes.

The Student October CEDAR/COGNOS report *District Summary of Post Secondary Programs* is designed to support districts when reviewing the number of students indicated in a Postsecondary Program along with the corresponding Public School Finance Funding Status. For example, using this report will enable districts to review the ASCENT allocations that will be allotted for the 2025-2026 school year.

Student October Collection (2025-2026) Implications

ASCENT participation is capped for each district based upon the 2024-2025 October ASCENT counts for the district. Districts cannot exceed their allotted ASCENT slots during this 2025-2026 collection and future Student October collections. The allocations will continue to reference the 2024-2025 Student October counts. All full-time funding codes will equate to 1.0 slots used while part-time funding codes will use 0.5 slots of your total district's allocations. There are plans to update the *District Summary of Post Secondary Programs* to include a chart to track these allocations.