## Current Options for Obtaining Post-Secondary Credit

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| **ASCENT**                                  | Twelfth graders with at least 12 college credits and appropriate test scores have a fifth year to earn an associate’s degree. The 5th year is completed at a participating community college. | -Open to all students.  
-Undocumented students can obtain a college degree.  
-All students have the opportunity to attend college at a much cheaper rate or offset costs when transferring to an in-state four year college/university.  
-AP Classes and CU Succeed can count as credit at the discretion of the college.  
-Students can take the CLEP test to gain credits in foreign language which can be recognized at the college but cannot be transferred out. | -Charters pay the cost of tuition/course work until 12th grade. DPS will pay the 5th year.  
-Students pay for books, supplies, and fees.  
-Students cannot apply for financial aid.  
-Students interested in NCAA eligibility should not participate.  
-Credits may not transfer out-of-state.  
-Students do not receive high school diplomas until they are finished with their 5th year of school.  
-Students may not be able to complete 60 credits for an associate’s degree before the 5th year ends.  
-The program may not be accessible to lower-middle range academically performing students. |
| **CU Succeed**                               | University of Colorado courses taught on-site at individual high schools.     | -Open to all academically eligible students.  
-CU may pay for books and a teacher, depending on program arrangements.  
-Students don’t have to leave campus.  
-Students do not pay university fees.  
-Qualified existing teachers at the high school can teach courses or CU can provide a professor. | -Does not provide for a 5th year option.  
-Depending on program arrangements, students may have to pay $75 a credit. |
| **AP Classes**                                |                                                                               | -On campus  
-Credits accepted at most universities. | -Not a direct pathway for a post-secondary degree.  
-May not be accessible enough to lower-middle range students to have an impact in post-secondary education. |
| **Scholarships from small, private liberal arts schools** | Full financial aid offered at competitive colleges/universities. | -Student’s tuition and fees are covered for four years. | -Does not include cost of books or additional expenses.  
-Does not include travel.  
-Students may not want to leave Colorado.  
-Competition for scholarships is very intense. |
| **In other states**                           | Universities/colleges in other states allow students to pay a cheaper rate. | -Students had to have lived in the state for a certain amount of time while attending high school. |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| **Individual scholarships and private funding.** | Scholarships that do not require citizenship or residency to apply.         | -Students have the opportunity to apply to scholarships.                 | -Very competitive for a limited amount of scholarships.  
-May be difficult to fundraise enough money to sustain tuition/fees over four years.                                                                                                           |
| **Students with a refugee or asylum status**  | Can apply for financial aid                                                  |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |