



TREP Handbook - Academic Year 2025-2026

Cherry Creek School District

The purpose of this handbook is to:

- Help 2024-2025 seniors understand the details of the TREP program
- Support High School Counselors to explain the TREP program to students
- Provide detailed information to support the application process

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Thank you for your interest in the [Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation](#) Program. This is a state funded program designed for students who are dedicated to pursuing a career in K-12 education. Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) will pay for a two years of a student's college tuition, books, and course fees during their TREP years.

Students in the TREP program must pursue a teaching pathway or other education-focused role in a K-12 education. Students will choose to attend either **part time** (3-11 credits a semester, about the same as 1-3 classes) or **full time** (12-18 credits a semester about the same as 3-6 classes per week).

Students accepted into the TREP program remain high school students during their two TREP years. They are taking concurrent enrollment classes on the college campus (and in some cases online). The classes and grades received in their TREP classes will be added to their high school transcript and will be factored into their high school GPA.

[For more information, FAQ's, and how-to guides visit the CCSD Concurrent Enrollment/TREP Website.](#)

Qualifications:

To be considered for the TREP program, a student must:

- Have taken at least one applicable concurrent enrollment course during senior year and earned college credit. [Courses listed on our website.](#)
- Plan to pursue postsecondary studies in the field of education.
- Meet all CCSD graduation requirements.
- Is college-ready as determined by partnering institutions, and not in need of any developmental coursework in accordance with the pathway in which they enroll.
- Apply for FAFSA or CASFA

The state of Colorado requires students/families to complete a FAFSA or CASFA application so they can make informed financial decisions. A TREP student however may not accept federal, state or institutional financial aid.

Students who are fully Pell eligible will likely receive more financial aid through FAFSA awards than through TREP.

- Applies to and has been accepted into a postsecondary degree program at a qualified, partnering Colorado institution of higher education.
- Not be a high school student for more than or less than 4 years.

Other considerations taken into account during the application process:

- Unweighted high school GPA
- Attendance
- Student Impact Statement
- Timeliness and completeness of necessary materials

Participating Colleges:

CCSD partners with the following colleges and universities for the TREP program.

- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- University of Northern Colorado
- Arapahoe Community College
- Community College of Aurora
- Red Rocks Community College
- Community College of Denver

Financial Considerations:

During a student's TREP years, CCSD will pay the following costs directly to the college:

- Tuition in approved coursework
- Student fees
- Required supplies as determined by the professor
- Textbooks - Instructions for purchasing textbooks will be emailed to student's **CreekMail** at the start of each semester

Students are responsible for other costs, including but not limited to:

- Housing (Note: UNC requires TREP students to live in campus housing their first year and have a meal plan).
- Meals
- Parking
- Supplies
- Transportation - As of November 2024, the [Zero Fare for Youth](#) allows students ages 19 and younger to ride RTD for free. Subject to change.

[The College Opportunity Fund \(COF\)](#) pays a portion of the student's tuition. Students must authorize COF to make payments to the college/university. Usually this is done in the application process, however, it is the student's responsibility to confirm with the college that COF has been authorized. If COF is not authorized, the student is responsible for the COF portion of the tuition.

Students are not allowed to receive any state or federal financial aid including federal loans and grants while in TREP. Students may receive scholarships or grants from private foundations and institutions as long as they are not required to have graduated from high school or be a first year college student.

FAFSA/CASFA:

The state of Colorado requires TREP applicants to complete the [FAFSA \(Free Application for Federal Student Aid\)](#) or the [CASFA \(Colorado Application for State Financial Aid\)](#). TREP students must fill out the application even though **they are ineligible to receive financial aid during their TREP years**. Students should take a picture of the confirmation page of their application for proof of completion. We **do not** need or want to see your Student Aid Index.

After the FAFSA/CASFA form is submitted and processed, students will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary. Many colleges start providing financial award letters beginning in March/April. Often these are accessible through the student college account. The award letter will tell you what financial assistance you are eligible for **if you choose not to participate in TREP**. *Students who are fully Pell eligible will likely receive more financial aid through FAFSA awards than through TREP.*

Reach out to your High School Counselor, post-grad office, or a FAFSA expert to help decide if federal aid or TREP is a better financial option.

Important Information:

- ★ Because TREP is a concurrent enrollment high school program, TREP students are high school students for 2 additional years, and they **will not receive their high school diploma until they exit the TREP program**.
- ★ TREP students' graduation date will reflect the end of their final TREP year NOT the year they completed their high school requirements.
- ★ TREP students can “socially graduate” at the end of their senior year and can walk with their senior class at graduation.
- ★ The classes and grades received in their TREP college classes will be added to their high school and college transcript and will be factored into their high school and college GPA.

Application Timeline (subject to change):

February 1, 2025	Application window opens Click here to apply
March 31, 2025	Priority Deadline
*Mid to late May	Notifications emailed to students. Sign the TREP Agreement within two weeks of receipt, emailed via PandaDoc
May 29, 2025	ASCENT and TREP Student Success Orientation
July 1, 2025	Complete the CCSD online parent forms

*This timing may change based on when CCSD receives our district TREP slots by the Colorado legislature.

Completed applications received by March 31 receive priority consideration. **Students who are invited into the TREP program must complete their TREP Student Agreement within two weeks of receipt.** Students that have not completed the agreement within two weeks may forfeit their TREP slot. After a student has applied, they can withdraw their application from consideration by emailing ascent-trep@cherrycreekschools.org.

Application Steps:

1. Discuss this opportunity with your parents/guardians. Meet with your high school counselor to determine if TREP is right for you.
2. **During the school year:** Attend a required ASCENT TREP informational presentation. Reach out to your post-grad center or counselor for dates and times.
3. **October-December:** If you haven't already, apply to the college/university of your choice.
4. **December-February:** Complete the FAFSA or CASFA. On the application, request that your results be sent to your college/university of choice. Take a screenshot of your confirmation page for the TREP application.
5. **February 1 - March 31:** [Complete and submit the CCSD TREP Application online](#) by March 31 for priority consideration.
6. **March-April:** Check your college portal for a financial award letter. Determine if TREP is the right fit for you financially. Students who are fully Pell eligible will

likely receive more aid through that program than through TREP. Reminder- TREP students cannot accept federal and state financial aid. CCSD will pay for your tuition, required books and fees in the TREP program. Housing, transportation, additional supplies, meals, etc are NOT covered through the TREP program.

7. **Mid to late May:** TREP acceptance and waitlist emails sent to students CreekMail. This timeline may change based on when CCSD receives our district TREP slots by the Colorado legislature.
8. **Within two weeks:** Within two weeks, complete the TREP agreement which is emailed to students CreekMail via PandaDoc. Failure to confirm your participation in TREP could forfeit your slot.
9. RSVP to the ASCENT/TREP Success Orientation invitation on May 29, 2025.
10. Notify ascent-trep@cherrycreekschools.org immediately if you decide not to participate in ASCENT .
11. Attend the ASCENT/TREP Success Orientation on May 29, 2025.

To apply: Scan the QR code below or visit the website

<https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/Page/14839>



Glossary of Terms and Important Links:

- **TREP: Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation program.** A fifth- and sixth-year high school program that allows students to participate in concurrent enrollment for two years after 12th grade, to pursue a degree in education. To learn more visit the TREP [website](#).
- **FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid.** The federal government's application for student aid, guaranteed student loans, work study and in some cases, institutional aid.
- **CASFA: Colorado Application for State Financial Aid.** The State Financial Aid application for undocumented, Colorado ASSET students. The CASFA bridges equity gaps and creates access to postsecondary education for Colorado ASSET students. To learn more visit the [CAFSA website](#).
- **COF: The College Opportunity Fund** was created by the Colorado Legislature. It provides a stipend to eligible undergraduate students. The stipend pays a portion of the total in-state tuition when attending a participating Colorado college. This stipend is paid directly to the college and is not included in a Financial Aid Summary. To learn more visit the [COF website](#).