

Colorado Student Re-engagement Grant

Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement



COLORADO
Department of Education

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

Colorado's Student Re-engagement Grant (SRG) program assists local education providers in providing educational services and supports to maintain student engagement and facilitate student re-engagement at the secondary level. The grant is managed by the Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement (DPSR) and is authorized by state statute, C.R.S. 22-14-109. Competitive grants under this statute were awarded for the first time in March 2016.

In fiscal year 2017-18, \$1.9 million was distributed to 10 district grantees. These grantees represented 33 high schools, which served 4,749 secondary-level students. Program descriptions by grantee and overall program results can be found on the [SRG webpage](#).

Addressing Risk Factors to Prevent Dropping Out

Literature shows that dropping out is not a single event but a regressive process. Multiple risk factors contribute to why students disengage from school. Grantees addressed the following risk factors that most often hinder high school completion: low attendance, course failure, behavior and discipline incidents, and lack of credits needed to graduate.

Methods and Tactics

At the foundation of the SRG program is the [Colorado Dropout Prevention Framework](#), which outlines strategies and practices to improve student attendance, behavior and course performance. Primary activities include:

- [Transition Programs](#) - Social and academic support for students progressing to new grade levels, changing schools or moving to a new school during the school year (e.g., counseling and mentoring, family outreach, community engagement, postsecondary and workforce readiness programming and staff training to support students in periods of transition).
- [Multiple Pathways to Graduation](#) – Customized educational options to address unique needs and circumstances of students (e.g., afterschool programs, apprenticeships, community service, internships, independent study, online courses, career and technical education, and college-level coursework).
- [Re-engagement of Out-of-School Youth](#) – Outreach to out-of-school youth, learning and understanding the challenges they face, and reconnecting them to high-quality educational opportunities.
- [Credit Recovery](#) – Opportunities to obtain missing credits or course remediation, especially in core courses (e.g., blended learning programs, self-paced digital content programs, online courses, work/study programs, course remediation programs, alternative education programs and summer school programs).

Student Success Stories

Grantees shared how students benefited from their programs:

- A recent high school graduate summed up the value of SRG programs. In thanking her graduation support coach, the student said, *"I had no idea the obstacles I would have to face... I know for a FACT that I had zero chance of graduating without you."*
- Multiple pathways options led to more students graduating, especially those over the age of 18 and credit deficient. For example, a 20 year-old student, who attended eight different schools and fell behind in credits, was able to attain both a high school diploma and industry certificate.
- The arts proved to be an effective re-engagement strategy. An 11th-grade student in an SRG school had stopped attending because he didn't see the purpose. School staff reached out and appealed to his interests. As a result he connected to the school's writing and poetry program, which led him to perform at a special event. Today this student is excited to make music his career, which includes plans to attend college.



2017-18 Outcomes

- **Growing number of students served** - In 2017-18, 10 grantees representing 33 schools served 4,749 middle school and high school students. Compared with the previous school year, the number served by the grant increased by more than 1,000 students.
- **Eight out of 10 students served experienced positive outcomes** – Grantees reported that 83 percent of the students they served experienced positive outcomes, such as school completion, persistence in their education, and continuing services to overcome education barriers.
- **Fewer students dropping out** - The 2018 dropout rate of seventh- to 12th-grade students in a SRG program was 8 percent. Comparatively, the state dropout rate for alternative schools was 16.9 percent. Students served by the SRG program struggle with the same issues as students in alternative schools. They both face issues tied to low school attendance, course failure and disciplinary actions, which studies show are predictive of dropping out of school.
- **Successful school engagement of out-of-school youth** verify that the legislative intent of the SRG program to support student re-engagement at the secondary level is being met. Seventeen schools across eight grants (out of 10) reported funding re-engagement efforts for out-of-school youth and re-engaging 632 out-of-school youth in 2017-18. Sixty-four percent of the out-of-school youth served progressed to the next grade, graduated with a diploma, or received a high school equivalency.

Outcomes are based on state-level evaluation of the SRG program for the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. SRG grantees report the number of students served, status of performance measures, student outcomes, and strategies and practices, as part of the evaluation.

Grantee Districts and Counties

SRG grantees represent 10 local education agencies located in 14 counties:

- Boulder Valley School District
- Charter School Institute
- Delta County 50(J)
- Denver Public Schools
- Jeffco Public Schools
- Mapleton 1
- Monte Vista C-8
- Montrose County RE-1J
- Poudre R-1
- School District 27J

Where can I learn more?

- [Dropout Prevention Framework](#)
- [SRG Grant Evaluation Report](#)
- [Student Re-engagement Grant webpage](#)
- [View all CDE fact sheets](#)