

2016 Licensing Rules Revision Implementation

Effective March 30, 2016, new Rules of Regulation for Educator Preparation and Licensing have been adopted, affecting certain licensing endorsements in Colorado. This is a brief summary of the major changes and schedule for implementation. A complete list of Colorado endorsements and competency requirements for each is located on our website at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>

Teaching Endorsements

Rule 9.07 Special Education Generalist Ages 5-21

Earned through the completion of an approved program OR 24 credit hours as determined by the Department AND passing of both Elementary Education and Special Education Generalist Colorado-approved content exams.

For those who already hold a Colorado teaching license, this endorsement may be added by test only through March 30, 2017. Educators exercising this option must pass a Colorado-approved content assessment before February 28, 2017. *** Please note the February 28, 2017 date is an extension from previous communications. Applicants must have submitted an application for the added endorsement by March 30, 2017. After this date, this endorsement may only be added through completion of the requirements listed above.

Rule 9.06 Gifted Education Specialist Ages 4-21

May only be added to an existing Colorado teaching license with the completion of a Master's degree in Gifted Education from an accepted institution of higher education.

For those who already hold a Colorado teaching license, this endorsement may be added by test only through March 30, 2017. The last opportunity to take the Place 50 Gifted and Talented exam is November 5, 2016. Applicants must have submitted an application for the added endorsement by March 30, 2017. After this date, this endorsement may only be added through completion of the requirements listed above.

Rule 9.05 Gifted Education Core Ages 4-21

This endorsement is new and is not currently available, but is anticipated to be available September 1, 2016. Requirements include completion of an approved graduate-level program in gifted education and passing of a Colorado-approved content exam. Endorsement may only be added to existing Colorado teaching license.

Rule 9.08 Early Childhood Special Education Ages 0-8

Must complete an approved program in Early Childhood Special Education that includes a practicum and student teaching.

Rule 9.04 Early Childhood Special Education Specialist Ages 0-8

Must complete a degree or non-degree graduate-level program in Early Childhood Special Education that includes a field-based experience or practicum.

School Librarian Grades K-12

Eliminated as of March 30, 2016. May be added through completion of School Librarian Place exam 42 through March 30, 2017. May be earned by those enrolled in an approved Colorado program as of Fall 2016.

Additional Updates

- **Discontinued endorsements**
Rule 7.03: Students at the time of discontinuance who are actively enrolled in a program for the discontinued endorsement shall have five years from the date that the endorsement is discontinued to complete their program and apply to CDE for the endorsement.
- **Discontinued content assessments**
Applicants will have a maximum of five years from the date of a discontinued content assessment to use the successful content assessment scores for fulfillment of endorsement criteria.



Rule 10.02 Teacher Librarian Grades K-12

- Must hold an earned bachelor's degree or higher from an accepted institution of higher education,
- Must hold a Colorado initial, professional or alternative teacher license,
- Must have completed an approved program in library science or the equivalent, including field work in diverse K-12 settings and grade levels and a supervised practicum or internship which includes both elementary and secondary school library experience.

Rule 10.05 Director of Special Education Grades K-12

- Must hold master's degree or higher in special education or demonstrate knowledge and application of standards for the specialist (as determined by the Department)
- Must have either completed approved program for Special Education Director or an approved program for School Administrator AND an approved master's program in special education.
- Must have minimum of two (2) years of experience working with students with exceptional academic and talent aptitude.

Special Services Provider Endorsements

Rule 11.05 School Nurse Ages 0-21

- Bachelor's degree or higher in nursing from an accepted institution of higher education or a nursing education program recognized by the US Secretary of Education as a specialized accrediting agency- health care (nursing), such as, but not limited to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- Must hold a license to practice professional nursing in Colorado pursuant to the provisions of the Colorado Nurse Practice Act or hold a license in another state and is practicing in Colorado pursuant to the nurse licensing compact
- Must have successfully completed field experiences and a supervised practicum as prescribed by the preparing institution, including experiences with school-age children in a community health/public health or school setting.

Rule 11.04 School Physical Therapist Ages 0-21

Must hold valid Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) license. Other requirements remain the same.

Rule 11.09 School Counselor Ages 0-21

Must have completed an approved program in school counseling as defined by accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. Other requirements remain the same.

Enforcement

Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct

Rule 15.05(1): If an employee of a school district is dismissed or resigns as of a result of an allegation of unlawful behavior involving a child, including unlawful sexual behavior, which is supported by a preponderance of the evidence, within 10 business days after the dismissal or resignation, the board of education of the school district shall notify the department of education and provide any information requested by the department concerning the circumstances of the dismissal or resignation.



Where can I learn more?

- Visit the Office of Educator Preparation, Licensing and Enforcement website here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof>
- To view complete endorsement information, visit our page here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>
- To view Colorado Rules of Regulation in their entirety, please visit the Secretary of State website here: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=6702>
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs