



COLORADO
Department of Education

Memo

To: Colorado Education Leaders
From: Dr. Colleen O'Neil, Executive Director Educator Licensing, Preparation and Educator Effectiveness
Date: Updated! September 20, 2016
Re: Special Education Generalist Rules Revision

Effective March 30, 2016, the Rules of Regulation for the Ages 5-21 Special Education Generalist endorsement have been updated. The requirements for this endorsement now include that applicants must have completed an approved program for Special Education Generalists, or hold a degree in K-12 special education or have 24 credit hours as determined by the Department AND have taken and passed two State Board of Education content exams: Elementary Education (currently Place #01 or Praxis II 5018) and the Special Education Generalist Place exam #20. This update to the rules was made to align with requirements of state statute.

In order to provide our partners in the field an opportunity to adjust to this revision, Educator Licensing will accept applications for educators to add this endorsement to their existing Colorado teaching **license through March 30, 2017 with** exams only. However, please know that the last administration of the Special Education Generalist Place exam #20 for added endorsement purposes will be November 5, 2016, and you may also use the Praxis exam #5354 with a passing score of 151. Praxis is an ongoing assessment window. These assessments must be **passed before February 28, 2017** in order to be used for the endorsement by assessment only option.

Applicants must have a submitted application on file with the Department of Education for an added endorsement no later than **March 30, 2017**. After that date, added endorsements for Special Education Generalists must be earned through the revised requirements listed above.

Colorado currently has 11 programs at institutes of higher education and 6 alternative preparation pathways for Special Education Generalists. We encourage our district partners to direct interested educators to these programs for completion of the new requirements.

Institutions of higher education:

http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/academics/teachered/EdPrepProjectdocuments/Approved%20Educator%20Preparation%20Programs%20in%20Colorado_052815.pdf

1. Adams State University
2. Colorado Christian University
3. Colorado Mesa University
4. Colorado State University Pueblo
5. Metropolitan State University Denver
6. Regis University
7. University of Colorado Boulder
8. University of Colorado- Colorado Springs
9. University of Colorado Denver
10. University of Northern Colorado
11. Western State Colorado University

Designated agencies for alternative preparation (for special education generalists):

https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/licensure_alt_desigagencies

1. University of Colorado Denver: ASPIRE
2. Colorado State University Pueblo

3. East Central BOCES
4. Metropolitan State University of Denver
5. Pikes Peak BOCES
6. Western State Colorado University

Understanding that many districts need flexibility in hiring educators, there continues to be two options for hiring educators that do not meet requirements: Temporary Educator Eligibility (TEE) and Alternative Licensure.

TEE: Allows educators to obtain a temporary license on an annual basis for up to three years while they work towards meeting the licensing requirements. Learn more at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/checklist-authrenewaltempspecialedspecialservices>.

Alternative Licensure: Allows educators to obtain a license while they are enrolled in an alternative program. The length of the alternative license is for the duration of the alternative program to allow the educator to meet the requirements of the alternative program. Learn more about alternative licensure at http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/checklist-alt_teacherprincipal.