

Teacher Licensure in Colorado

In Colorado, a classroom teacher may hold one of the following *licenses or authorizations*: initial teaching license, alternative teaching license, teacher-in-residence authorization, or professional license. An *endorsement* is the designation on a license that reflects the teacher's major area of specialization. So, a new high school math teacher may hold an initial teaching license with an endorsement in mathematics education. Some endorsements, such as reading teacher, are advanced and may only be earned after a teacher has an initial teaching license in a particular area.

INITIAL TEACHING LICENSE: An initial teaching license is valid for three years and is issued to an individual who holds a Bachelor's degree and who has completed an approved teacher preparation program at an accepted institution of higher education. Approved teacher preparation programs must demonstrate a comprehensive admission system, a system for ongoing screening and counseling of teacher candidates, course work and field-based training that integrates theory and practice that prepares candidates to teach the content defined in the state model content standards, a curriculum that ensures each candidate completes a minimum of 800 hours of supervised field-based experiences, a comprehensive assessment system including evaluation of each teacher candidate's subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to satisfy all Performance-based Standards for Colorado Teachers¹³.

ALTERNATIVE TEACHING LICENSE: An alternative teacher license is valid for one year and authorizes the individual to be employed only as an alternatively-licensed teacher in an approved alternative teacher preparation program. The individual must have a bachelor's degree, have passed the licensure test for his/her teaching assignment, and have met content area requirements for his/her endorsement area. Once the individual has completed an approved alternative licensure program, s/he is eligible for an initial teacher license.

TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE AUTHORIZATION. A teacher-in-residence authorization is valid for two years and authorizes an individual to be employed exclusively as a teacher-in-residence in an approved teacher-in-residence program. The individual must have a bachelor's degree, have passed the licensure test for his/her teaching assignment, and have met content area requirements for his/her endorsement area. Once the individual has completed an approved alternative licensure program, s/he is eligible for a professional teacher license.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING LICENSE: A professional teaching license is valid for five years. To be eligible, an individual must hold an initial teaching license and have successfully completed an approved induction program. Out of state applicants may be exempt from induction if they have three or more years of continuous, successful, evaluated experience as a teacher.

To review the Rules & Regulations adopted by the State Board of Education that govern educator licensure, please see the following website: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/NumericalSubDocList.do?deptID=4&deptName=300Education&agencyID=109&agencyName=301%20Colorado%20State%20Board%20of%20Education&ccrDocID=2044&ccrDocName=1%20CCR%2030137%20RULES%20FOR%20THE%20ADMINISTRATION%20OF%20THE%20EDUCAT>

¹³http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/download/pdf/li_perfbasedstandards.pdf