

Transition to Teaching Projects

Teacher Preparation, Retention and
Empowerment Project (Teacher PREP)

Transition of Paraprofessionals to Special Education Teachers
through Alternative Licensure Program (TOP-SET*ALP)

Project Partners

- Project partners are:
 - The PAR²A Center as the lead agency
 - The Colorado Department of Education (CDE)
 - Several high-need charter schools and school districts
 - Several BOCES agencies in Colorado
- Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Transition to Teaching Program
 - TOP-SET*ALP 2007-2012
 - Teacher PREP 2009-2014

The Paraprofessional Research and Resource Center, The PAR²A Center

- Grant funded research and training center – part of the School of Education & Human Development at University of Colorado Denver
- Concerned with the issues of employment, training and career development of paraeducators
- The Teacher PREP grant expands focus to also include recent college graduates, mid-career professionals and unlicensed teachers (in all endorsed educational areas for education teachers not licensed in subject area)

Transition of Paraprofessionals to Special Education Teachers through Alternative Licensure Program (**TOP-SET*ALP**)

Overall Goal:

To transition paraprofessionals from their current positions to hard to fill teaching positions in special education through an alternative route to teacher certification

Teacher Preparation, Retention and Empowerment Project (Teacher PREP)

Overall Goal:

To transition paraprofessionals, recent college graduates, mid-career professionals and unlicensed teachers to teaching positions in high need charter schools/high-need districts in high need subjects (All endorsement areas) through an alternative licensure program

Federal definition of high need district or charter school:

- “20 percent of children served by the district or agency are from families with incomes below the poverty line.”
- “Has teachers not teaching in the academic subjects or grade levels that teachers were trained to teach or teachers with emergency, provisional, temporary certification or licensing.”
- Additional qualifying criterion for Teacher PREP
 - charter schools that have more than 40% students on free/reduced lunch qualify

To find or confirm qualifying high-need districts and charter schools contact Michael Gallegos at 303-315-6362 or Michael.Gallegos@ucdenver.edu

Why apply to these grants?

The two grants offer a comprehensive package:

- Individual-centered advisement and support prior to, during and after the completion of the alternative licensure program
- Classroom teaching experience (as full-time teacher of record)
- Mentoring from master teachers
- Direct pedagogical instruction in a seminar format through a high quality alternative licensure program delivered via weekend school site-based immersions and web-based instruction
- Possible graduate credits through the University of Colorado Denver
- Comprehensive funding (for tuition, alternative program fees and conference attendance)

Comprehensive Funding

The grants pay:

- For the cost of the Alternative Licensure Program
- Candidate for the following expenses associated with the candidate's application for a Statement of Eligibility (SOE):
 - Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Application
 - Place or Praxis Test Fee
- Candidate's tuition for eligible graduate level courses at the University of Colorado Denver
- Candidate's mentor for providing onsite coaching and supports
- For candidate's books for the program
- Partial stipend to attend a local conference in the candidate's teaching field of interest

Additional qualifications...

Candidates must have a strong conceptual understanding of content they will teach.

Mid- Career professionals must also:

- Have a minimum three years of successful work experience in a profession other than teaching

Recent college grads must also:

- Have at least 100 hours experience working with youth and families

Paraeducators must also:

- Be nominated by their school district/charter school

Who can apply to the Transition to Teaching grant projects?

You must be willing to work in areas with high-need districts and charter schools for three years

You must have completed a baccalaureate degree, for recent college graduates within the last three years (2.6 GPA or higher)

Ability to pass background check

Ability to meet CDE subject area review requirements

Does this program include job placement ?

No. Candidates are required to seek their own employment. However, the project staff at the PAR²A Center will provide guidance and assistance with finding jobs. Websites to look at regarding job openings:

- <http://www.coloradoleague.org/jobs>
- www.teachincolorado.org.

Steps to the admission process

STEP 1

- Contact Michael Gallegos michael.gallegos@ucdenver.edu at the PAR²A Center or Veronica Hepworth veronica.hepworth@ucdenver.edu to receive pre-application advice.
- Fill out the TTT Project Application (You can find the application on the PAR²A Center website) www.paracenter.org
- Submit transcripts (official or unofficial) for preliminary review for CDE eligibility.

STEP 2

PAR²A Center:

- Assists selected candidates with CDE application for alternative licensure
- Acts as liaison with Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Alternative Teacher Licensure Program Department regarding:
 - Adherence to current requirements and guidelines for alternative licensure
 - Status of individual candidate's and paperwork flow
 - Recommends candidate for admission to the grant project

STEP 3

The PAR²A Center:

- Conducts pre-admission interview
- Makes final decision regarding admission to the grant project
- Mails formal letter of acceptance (provisional until CDE Application is completed), participant agreement, consent form, handbooks, financial forms

How do you meet CDE subject area requirements?

To receive a Statement of Eligibility

You show content proficiency by:

You have completed the 24 semester hours of content required for the endorsement

OR you have passed the Colorado State Board of Education-approved content exam for the endorsement being sought

Contact information

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