

## State of Colorado Teacher Alternative Licensure Program

Alternative Licensure Programs offer an accelerated route into the classroom for career changers and recent college graduates who have subject matter expertise but lack formal education coursework or training.

During an alternative program you will be employed full-time while you receive instruction, mentoring, supervision and assessment of proficiency to meet the specific performance based standards for teachers or principals. Programs are provided by approved Designated Agencies that meet Colorado standards for obtaining initial licensure.

### Introduction to the Alternative Licensure Program

<http://www.msudenver.edu/alp/>

The Colorado General Assembly recognizes that many school districts face a shortage of teachers and often struggle to find qualified persons to teach their students. As a result The General Assembly passed legislation that permits persons with experience in areas other than public school teaching to teach under the State regulations for Alternative Licensure Programs. Metropolitan State College of Denver (Metro State) initiated an Alternative Licensure Program (ALP) in August, 2000, and currently offers three programs that lead to teacher licensure. ALP candidates are both full time teachers and students. ALP candidates attend classes one night a week at Metro State and learn how to be an effective teacher. At the end of the program, ALP candidates receive an Initial License for teaching in Colorado, provided they have met the State requirements for an Initial License.

All candidates admitted to any of the Metro State Alternative Licensure Programs must have an **SOE** and obtain a full time teaching position prior to admission.

**The One Year Alternative Licensure Program (ALP 1)** is a one year program for candidates teaching regular education and have at least two years of previous contractual teaching experience in the same grade level and content as the current teaching position. Prior to admission, ALP 1 candidates will be required to create a portfolio, demonstrating proficiency in at least 1/2 of the Performance Based Standards for Teachers. During the year, the ALP 1 candidate is both a full time teacher and student. Candidates in the ALP 1 program may be hired by **member school districts**, metro-area non member school districts, charter schools and accredited private schools.

**The Two Year Alternative Licensure Program (ALP 2)** is a two year program designed for candidates teaching regular education with little or no previous teaching experience, or those who don't qualify for ALP 1. In the first year, the ALP 2 candidate is both a full time teacher and a student. In the second year, the ALP candidate is a full time teacher and receives coaching to complete the requirements for an Initial License. Candidates in the ALP 2 program may be hired by **member school districts**, metro-area non member school districts, charter schools and accredited private schools.

**The Alternative Licensure Program Special Education (ALP SED) [formerly known as CASEL]** is a two year program designed for candidates teaching special education. For two years, the ALP SED candidate is both a full time teacher and student. Candidates in the ALP SED program may be hired by [member school districts](#), metro-area non member school districts, charter schools and accredited private schools.

**The Alternative Licensure Program Special Education Concentration Master of Arts in Teaching (ALP SED MAT)** is a two year program designed for candidates teaching special education and who qualify for the MAT graduate coursework, leading the a MAT. For two years, the ALP SED candidate is both a full time teacher and graduates student. Candidates in the ALP SED program may be hired by [member school districts](#), metro-area non member school districts, charter schools and accredited private schools.

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/index\\_license.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_license.htm)

### Program Requirements

1. Background Check - Submit [fingerprints](#) to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation
2. Statement of Eligibility
  - Submit the online Statement of Eligibility Application to the Colorado Department of Education
  - Must hold at least a bachelor's degree from an [accepted, regionally accredited college or university](#) with a cumulative GPA of 2.6 or higher
  - Have completed 24 semester hours of credit in the content area required for the [endorsement](#) as listed on the Statement of Eligibility Worksheet which will be verified by a transcript review or by passing the Colorado State Board approved [content exam](#).
  - If the application is approved, applicants will be emailed a Statement of Eligibility which is valid for three years.
    - The Statement of Eligibility is NOT a license, but allows an individual to seek employment in a Colorado school district or accredited non-public school in the approved endorsement area. Upon securing employment, the individual is eligible to enroll in an Alternative Program provided by a state approved [Designated Agency](#).
  - If the application is not approved, applicants will be emailed any additional coursework or assessment required and will have 90 days from the date the application was received by CDE to submit the additional requirements. After 90 days, the incomplete application will automatically expire, requiring the applicant to reapply.
3. Alternative Teacher License Application
  - Once employment has been secured and the applicant has enrolled in either a 1 year or 2 year Alternative Teacher Licensing Program, an online application for the Alternative Teacher License must be submitted to the Colorado Department of Education. The Designated Agency will assist the applicant with completing the required documentation.

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Fax: 303-830-0793

Hours: Mon - Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.