



SB20-158 Professional Training for Educators
by Senator Todd and Representatives McLachlan and Wilson
This bill amends the program requirements that the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) must review when approving educator preparation programs and includes “conditional approval” as an additional outcome. Additionally, the bill revises some existing financial incentives created for educator recruitment and retention.



Educator preparation statute on the authorization and reauthorization of programs is outdated.



CDHE and educator preparation leaders researched best practices to inform and update state statute and accompanying DHE policy.



This bill updates educator preparation statute to ensure that authorization and reauthorization of programs aligns with best practices in preparation.

Background

SB19-190, signed by Governor Polis in 2019, tasked CDHE and CDE to study and write a report on best practices in educator preparation. Colorado Education Preparation Providers are to respond with their three-year plans for implementation by March 1, 2020. Further the bill required CDHE to identify any changes to align the review of educator preparation programs with best practice. The report, *Best in Class: Five Principles of Effective Educator Preparation*, synthesizes current research in a set of five principles for teacher preparation and a set of several best practices under each principle.

Core principles of high-quality teacher preparation programs:

- **Principle 1:** Teacher preparation programs foster candidates’ deep understanding of content knowledge, content knowledge for teaching, and general pedagogical knowledge.
- **Principle 2:** Teacher preparation programs foster candidates’ deep understanding of P- 12 learners, including their cognitive and socio-emotional development.
- **Principle 3:** Teacher preparation programs provide intentional, coherent, and extensive clinical experiences for candidates.
- **Principle 4:** Teacher preparation programs regularly monitor, assess, and evaluate the progress of their candidates through multiple measures in order to support, coach, and determine best steps with candidates.
- **Principle 5:** Teacher preparation programs engage in robust, continuous improvement efforts.

Key Statutory Provisions

1. **Aligns the requirements** that CDHE must examine when approving teacher preparation programs with current best practices.
2. **Adds an outcome of reauthorization** currently: fully reauthorized, probational, and termination to include, “Conditional” as a step between full reauthorization and probation which requires that admission be ceased.
3. **Clarifies that stipends** provided to pre-service educators do not constitute student financial assistance.
4. **Expands eligibility of educator loan forgiveness program** by making it available to individuals who graduated from preparation programs outside of Colorado.

Meets the strategic goals of *Colorado Rises* to



Improve Student
Success



Increase
Affordability

For More Information

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Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

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