



## News from the Office of Professional Services and Educator Licensing

**July 2014**

### **Phone Call Center Hours Increased**

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Licensure phone call center hours were increased by over an hour in order to provide better support for our educators. Call center hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Walk-in hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the last walk-in taken at 4:30 p.m.

### **New Dance Endorsement Rule Approved**

**July 2014 | [Watch for More Information](#)**

On June 11, 2014, the Colorado State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the [dance endorsement rules](#). Distinguished guests including Cleo Parker Robinson provided public comment in support of the rules. This milestone could not have been achieved without the strong leadership of the Dance Endorsement Committee and The Colorado Dance Education Organization (CoDEO). Now that the rules have been approved, the CDE Educator Licensing Unit will begin developing procedures for educators to follow to obtain a Dance endorsement. Once these procedures are available, we will send notifications via email and website announcements. The Colorado Department of Higher Education will also begin the process of program requirements for higher education institutions interested in pursuing Dance endorsement offerings. Please stay tuned for more details on this exciting opportunity as they become available.

### **Rule Review, Content Assessment Alignment Project**

**July 2014 | [Watch for More Information](#)**

We are embarking on a process to analyze, review, research, make recommendations, and coordinate stakeholder engagement meetings relating to the alignment of Colorado educator licensing rules and educator licensing content knowledge tests (currently the PLACE and PRAXIS II). We expect this process to take us 12-18 months and comes on the heels of many educators and stakeholders across Colorado asking us to align the 1991 standards to the expectations of the teachers in our classrooms today. This means that we will be conducting statewide meetings to talk about the current rules for educator preparation authorization, endorsements and the alignment of our educator content assessments including the PLACE and Praxis II assessments. These conversations will result in recommendations going forward to the State Board of Education for new rule adoptions as well as potentially new content assessment recommendations. Please continue to watch our website and listserv for more information about how to engage in this process and timelines!

### **Frequently Asked Questions about Licensing Requirements**

**July 2014**

**What does “reciprocity” mean for out-of-state applicants?** If Colorado licensure is the topic, forget what you know about the meaning of the word reciprocity, because it’s likely not what you think. While it is true that Colorado has signed NASDTEC’s reciprocity agreement with a majority of other states, our signature on this agreement indicates one thing: that we will recognize that another state has granted an educator a license.

**What Reciprocity Is Not**

- A synonym for the word **transfer**. Licenses do not “transfer” across state lines.
- **Reciprocal**. Any holder of a educator license issued by another state must meet or exceed Colorado’s requirements for the license and/or endorsement area sought. Period.
- A **guarantee** that an applicant will receive a Colorado-issued license or that an applicant will receive all of the endorsements issued by the other state. Colorado issues licenses in the applicants’ content area(s) of preparation. All other endorsements may be added upon application and meeting the requirements for each.

**What Reciprocity Is**

- **Helpful**. If an applicant meets the requirements for a Colorado license and has at least three years’ continuous experience in the content area(s), reciprocity allows us to issue a professional license. Those who meet the requirements with less than three continuous years’ experience receive an initial license.
- **Beneficial**. If an applicant is found to meet all-but-the-requisite-content-exam(s) requirements, reciprocity allows us to issue an Interim Authorization, thereby allowing the candidate to teach while also giving him or her a year’s time to prepare for and take the required exam(s).

**What are the requirements for a Special Services License or endorsement?**

We often receive questions about the requirements for special services provider licenses and endorsements. In addition to verifying legal presence in the United States and submitting fingerprints to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for a criminal history/background check, all candidates for special services provider endorsements must:

- Hold a bachelor’s or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education
- Have completed an approved program at a regionally accredited institution of higher education for the preparation of special service providers for the endorsement area sought
- Have completed an internship, practicum and/or field experience.

Would you like more specific information regarding what exactly is required for a particular Special Services License or endorsement? Click on the question above to learn more.

**What is the difference between the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse endorsement and the Linguistically Diverse Education endorsement?**

Recently it came to our attention that many within the office were confused about when to issue LDE vs. CLD. This got us thinking, “If we’re confused, then it’s likely that you might be, too!” Click on the question above to learn more regarding these endorsements as well as little background about what transpired and when, and some general rules about why you will continue to see LDE as an endorsement on many teachers’ licenses.

### **When is an Interim Authorization issued?**

An Interim Authorization is issued to a first-time applicant\* who holds a license issued by another state, but who does not have three or more consecutive years of licensed experience in the content area(s) of preparation, who has not demonstrated content mastery via the Colorado State Board of Education-approved content exam(s) for those endorsement area(s), or both. Click on the question above for more detailed information about interim authorizations.

### **Statutory Reporting Requirements**

July 2014 | [Learn More](#)

If an employee of a school district is dismissed or resigns as a result of an allegation of unlawful behavior involving a child, including unlawful sexual behavior, which is supported by a preponderance of the evidence, within ten business days after the dismissal or resignation, the board of education of the school district shall notify the department of education and provide any information requested by the department concerning the circumstances of the dismissal or resignation. The district shall also notify the employee that information concerning the employee's dismissal or resignation is being forwarded to the department of education unless the notice would conflict with the confidentiality requirements of the "Child Protection Act of 1987," part 3 of article 3 of title 19, C.R.S.

Please remember to immediately contact us should you find a need to report this type of information. You may contact Colleen O'Neil at [oneil\\_c@cde.state.co.us](mailto:oneil_c@cde.state.co.us) or Darrin Bacca at [bacca\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:bacca_d@cde.state.co.us).

### **Notices**

July 2014 | [Learn More](#)

**On July 18, 2014 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** the CDE Educator Licensing Offices will be **closed** for team professional development. Please make note of the time and if you are planning on coming in to the office for support please plan to come after 11:00 a.m. If you wish to send us an email during this time you may send it to [educator.licensing@cde.state.co.us](mailto:educator.licensing@cde.state.co.us) and we will get back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding and support!

To read more or see recent archives, please visit our web page at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof>

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