



Online Free Professional Development Options for Colorado Educators

Supporting Special Education & Behavioral Health Re-Licensure Requirements and Paraprofessional Training

Introduction

Educators and paraprofessionals play a critical role in supporting students with disabilities. Recent legislation in Colorado established new professional development requirements for both groups—licensed educators must complete training in special education and behavioral health, and paraprofessionals must receive role-specific training to ensure they can effectively support students.

This document highlights a selection of free online professional development opportunities that may help meet these new requirements. The list is not comprehensive and does not represent an endorsement of any program or provider; it is intended as a starting point to explore available options.

Special Education/Behavior Health Re-Licensure Requirements

As a result of the passage of [HB 20-1128](#) and [HB 20-1312](#) during the 2020 legislative session, all licensed educators renewing a professional license must complete a minimum of 10 contact hours in special education and behavioral health. This is an ongoing requirement for every renewal cycle after that date.

Personnel Qualifications for Paraprofessionals

As of May 12, 2025, updates to ECEA Rule 3.04(1)(e) require that paraprofessionals receive appropriate training to support students with disabilities in alignment with their role. Training should cover essential topics such as confidentiality, mandated reporting, characteristics of disability categories, positive behavioral interventions, de-escalation strategies, legal requirements, and local policies and procedures.

Training must be differentiated based on role (e.g., one-to-one support, classroom instructional support, related services, or supporting students who are Deaf, blind, or nonverbal) and should occur before services begin, with refresher training provided annually.

Free Online Professional Development Options

Disclaimer: The professional development opportunities listed are provided as a resource only. This list is not comprehensive and does not represent an endorsement by CDE or any other entity. Educators and paraprofessionals are responsible for selecting training that aligns with their role and for maintaining documentation (e.g., certificates, transcripts) to verify completion for licensure renewal or role-based requirements.

Professional Development Opportunities (Click the Title to Access Training)	Audience (listed by license type)	Possible Credit Hours
<u>CDE On-Demand Professional Development Library</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Colorado Multi-tiered System of Supports Online Academy</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>CDE - Data Based Individualization</u>	Principals, Teachers, Special Service Providers	3 Hours
<u>CDE - Equipped for Reading Success</u>	All Educators	9 Hours
<u>CDE - Assessing, Preventing, and Overcoming Reading Difficulties</u>	All Educators	9 Hours
<u>Colorado Educator Support</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Colorado Office of School Safety Online Trainings</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>CDE - Expulsion Hearing Officer Training</u>	Administrators, Principals, Special Service Providers	10+ Hours
<u>CDE - Manifestation Determination Review</u>	Administrators, Principals, Special Service Providers	2 Hours
<u>CDE - Masking and Mental Health</u>	All Educators	1 Hour
<u>CDE - Mental Health 101</u>	All Educators	1 Hour
<u>CDE - Positive Behavior Reinforcement</u>	Teachers, Special Service Providers, Paraprofessionals	1 Hour
<u>CDE - Serving Students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing: A Professional Development Course for SLPs and other Service Providers</u>	Teachers, Special Service Providers, Paraprofessionals	8.5 Hours
<u>CDE - Culturally Responsive School-Based Family Interviewing: Engaging in Empathic Family Partnerships</u>	Administrators, Principals, Teachers, Special Service Providers	5 Hours
<u>CDE - Indigenous Students with Exceptionalities Course</u>	Teachers, Special Service Providers	4 Hours

Professional Development Opportunities (Click the Title to Access Training)	Audience (listed by license type)	Possible Credit Hours
<u>CDE - Supporting Literacy in Individuals with Autism Through the Use of Assistive Technologies</u>	Teachers, Special Service Providers	1 Hour
<u>Classroom Well-Being Information and Strategies for Educators (WISE)</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Colorado Behavioral Health Agency Learning Hub</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Autism Focused Intervention Resources & Modules (AFIRM)</u>	Teachers, Special Service Providers, Paraprofessional	10+ Hours
<u>California Early Childhood Online</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Learning Libraries</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>CEC - Supporting Student Behavior as a Paraeducator</u>	Teachers, Paraprofessionals	1 Hour
<u>CEC - Effective & High-Leverage Practices for Paraeducators</u>	Teachers, Paraprofessionals	9 Hours
<u>Ed Web Professional Development</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Foundations of Trauma-Informed School Mental Health & Trauma-Informed School, Classroom, and Counseling Supports</u>	All Educators	9.5 Hours
<u>IRIS Center</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>National Center on Intensive Intervention</u>	Principals, Teachers, Special Service Providers, Paraprofessionals	10+ Hours
<u>National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Learning Center</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Safe Spaces: Foundations of Trauma-Informed Practice for Educational Care Settings</u>	All Educators	10+ Hours
<u>Ultimate Behavior Toolkit: What Works</u>	Teachers, Special Service Providers, Paraprofessionals	10+ Hours