

## Gifted Education Endorsements: Three Career Pathways

### New Rules for Teacher Licensure Adopted February 2016

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At the February 2016 Board of Education meeting the State Board of Directors approved the Educator Preparation and Licensure Rule updates covering a number of specialized areas including gifted education. As next steps, the rules must go to the Secretary of State for a full review and publish. This process can take up to 60 days. The rules will not be in full effect until that time. Find the approved draft Rules at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/edlicensingdrafrules216>.

The different levels of specificity in gifted education endorsement was the collaborative efforts of the Office of Gifted Education, the Colorado Council of Gifted Education Teacher Educators (CCGETE), a group of university faculty in gifted education, the Gifted Education State Advisory Committee, and other interested stakeholders. The draft gifted education rules sent to the Board included, for the first time, a career pathway for educators with a keen interest in gifted education. Because of the varying roles that those in gifted education fulfill in the state, the rules will fulfill the needs of educators to be qualified personnel who facilitate instruction of gifted students and who administer gifted education program plans.

The levels of endorsement demonstrate continuous depth of learning in gifted education and build upon knowledge, skills, and application through the levels:

**Core** Endorsement – for classroom teachers who want to increase their ability to meet the differentiated needs of their gifted students

**Specialist** Endorsement – for teachers and others who may serve as building-level gifted coordinators, program-level coordinators or coordinators in districts

**Director** Endorsement – for educators with master’s or higher degrees who direct programs on the district or administrative unit/BOCES level

### Career Pathways in Gifted Education

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#### Core

(Section 9.05) Requirements include a bachelor’s or higher degree, completion of an approved gifted education core preparation program including field experience, passing any general or gifted education tests required, and competency in the following areas:

- Learner development and individual learner differences
- Learning environment and structures
- Instructional planning and strategies
- Curricular content knowledge
- Assessment and evaluation
- Professional learning and ethical practice
- Collaboration and communication



## Specialist

(Section 9.06) Requirements include a bachelor's or higher degree, completion of an approved gifted education specialist preparation program including field experience, holding a teacher license with a gifted education core endorsement **or** demonstration of the competencies for the core endorsement, and competency in the following areas:

- Leadership and policy
- Collaboration, communication and coordination
- Research and inquiry
- Curriculum content
- Assessment
- Professional and ethical practice
- Programming services and program evaluation

## Director

(Sections 6.14 and 10.6) Requirements include a master's or higher degree in gifted education **or** demonstration of the standards for the specialist endorsement, a minimum of two years' full-time experience working with gifted students, completion of an approved gifted education director preparation program including field experience, and competency in the following areas:

- Foundations for leadership
- Gifted education and school systems
- Law and policy
- Instructional leadership
- Program planning and organization
- Human resource functions
- Parent, family and community partnership
- Budget and resources

Universities in Colorado with gifted education programs will adjust their programs in alignment with the Rules and work with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and CDE to ensure that students can finish their current endorsement programs and begin new programs in accordance with state laws and Rules. Questions about university endorsement programs should be directed to the specific university.

Until the new Rules are finalized, educators should continue to use the standards for gifted education endorsement found on the Endorsements page of the CDE Office of Gifted Education website:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/endorsements>.

The contents of this handout were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.