



201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203-1799

February 27, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the last several months, the Colorado Department of Education and the State Board of Education have engaged in a conversation prompted by SB25-154 regarding the methods for establishing teacher competency as part of the initial teacher licensure process.

I want to thank the members of our team, our legislative partners, and our partners in higher education, school districts, and the K-12 advocacy community for their partnership on this work.

As a result of those conversations, I am directing the CDE team to begin the process of removing the current requirement that candidates for an elementary endorsement and a Special Education Generalist endorsement demonstrate subject matter competency in science and social studies. Candidates for an Elementary endorsement will still be expected to demonstrate competency in teaching reading and math. Candidates for a Special Education endorsement will still be expected to demonstrate competency in teaching reading, math, and special education.

I am also directing the removal of the early childhood exam and the addition of a math exam for candidates for Early Childhood Special Education. Candidates for endorsement for Early Childhood Special Education will still be required to demonstrate competency in early childhood special education and teaching reading.

Currently, the elementary math test is bundled with science and social studies. I have also directed the team to move expeditiously to ensure the availability of an independent elementary math test. The State Board of Education will need to vote to approve the new elementary math test, and we will schedule that vote as soon as possible in accordance with all rules and regulations.





**COLORADO**  
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Endorsement area	Presently Required Exams/Areas of Content Knowledge Demonstration*						
	Teaching Reading	Early Childhood Education	Early Childhood Special Ed.	Elementary Education			Special Education Generalist
				Math (subtest)	Science (subtest)	Social Studies (subtest)	
Early Childhood Special Education	X	X	X				
Elementary Education	X			X	X	X	
Special Education Generalist	X			X	X	X	X

\*Secondary and K-12 endorsements have no required exams – individuals may demonstrate content knowledge via bachelor's or higher degree in the content area; 24 semester hours of specific coursework or an SBE-approved Praxis exam. (Note: Some EPPs require candidates to pass the exam for program completion.)

Endorsement area	Considerations for Changes to Required Exams/Areas of Content Knowledge Demonstration						
	Teaching Reading	Early Childhood Education	Early Childhood Special Ed.	Elementary Education			Special Education Generalist
				Math (subtest)	Science (subtest)	Social Studies (subtest)	
Early Childhood Special Education	X	<del>X</del> -removed	X	X-added			
Elementary Education	X			X	<del>X</del> -removed	<del>X</del> -removed	
Special Education Generalist	X			X	<del>X</del> -removed	<del>X</del> -removed	X





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To provide feedback, complete this [survey](#) by **midnight on Thursday, March 6, 2025**. If you have questions or would like to provide input beyond that requested in the survey, please join one of the two **Focus Group Stakeholder Sessions on Monday, March 10**. (Copy the hyperlink for your selected time and reserve this time on your calendar.)

- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87406928003>)
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82044093754>)

As we work to ensure every Colorado child has access to a high-quality education, teachers are our most important resource. CDE has worked hard over the last several years, alongside our partners, to strengthen our educator workforce. We believe it is also critically important that teachers have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the classroom. I believe these changes represent an appropriate balance between ensuring educator quality and meeting the staffing needs of Colorado schools and districts.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at [cordova\\_s@cde.state.co.us](mailto:cordova_s@cde.state.co.us).

Sincerely,

Susana Córdova, EdD  
Commissioner of Education

