

Work and Learn East: Special Education License

The Work and Learn Program aims to recruit, prepare, retain and support highly qualified paraprofessionals and Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers on their journey to become a Tier 3 licensed teacher. It provides an affordable, accessible, and accelerated program to earn a Minnesota teaching license and master’s degree in 2.5 years. The Work and Learn East cohort includes three groups: 1) Intermediate School District 917, their member Districts 2) Intermediate School District 916, their member Districts and 3) Independent School District 196.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Individuals who are dedicated to education, are employees or will become employees of one of the partner districts, and have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution. Candidates from underrepresented backgrounds who reflect our diverse student populations are encouraged to apply.

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

- Participants will take a combination of online and/or face-to-face courses in a cohort model at a district sponsored educational site.
- Participants will take maximum of two courses each semester.

Year 1				Year 2				Year 2.5
Fall	J-Term	Spring	Summer	Fall	J-Term	Spring	Summer	Fall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Engagement • Effective Teaching and Learning • Educational Equity & Inclusive Practices • Literacy Development • Fundamental Special Education Courses 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Method courses • Disability Specific Method courses • Field Experiences 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Teaching (on the job) • Master’s Research Course (add on)

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

Program	Credits
Initial Academic Behavior Strategist License Coursework	31 credits
Add on Master’s Degree Coursework	3 credits
Optional Add on Additional License (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Disabilities, Early Childhood Special Education, Emotional Behavior Disorders, Learning Disabilities)	9-12 credits (includes shortened student teaching)

- University of St. Thomas tuition for MA degree = Approximately \$685 per credit
- Cost of books is an additional fee and varies by course
- Participants may be eligible for Federal student loan forgiveness while teaching
- Financial aid available

AFTER INITIAL LICENSE

The University of St. Thomas makes it very easy to add on additional licenses with 2-3 additional courses per disability area.

HOW TO BEGIN THE PROCESS

Contact your Human Resource representative listed below for more information and to get started today!

District 196 - Andrea Engstrom at andrea.engstrom@district196.org

Intermediate 917 – Lauren Kelly at lauren.kelly@isd917.org

Intermediate 916 - Colleen Robinson at crobinso@916schools.org

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Contact Barbara Jo Stahl - bjstahl@stthomas.edu or 952-250-2057