EDUCATOR LICENSURE RENEWAL

Renewal Requirements for Licensed Educators

COLORADO
Department of Education

Educator Licensure Renewal

Educators are required to renew their professional licensure every five (5) years. In order to renew, the only requirement is they obtain 90 Clock hours in professional learning in the last five years. 90 clock hours is the equivalent of 6 semester hours at a university or college.

Educators have professional choice in determining which professional learning to engage and, at a very high level, must align those choices to their teaching areas, endorsements areas, Colorado academic standards, best practice pedagogy for all students (such as special education and cultural diversity), school culture and climate, student wellbeing, or leadership.

Recently, two initiatives have come forward that requires some groups of educators to obtain at least 45 clock hours in professional development. Those two initiatives include English Language Learners (ELL) and READ Act.

English Language Learning Professional Development

The ELL professional learning requirement is 45 clock hours over the next full renewal cycle of a professionally licensed educator endorsed in elementary, math, English, science and social studies. This requirement must only be met once and an educator can use any and all training, professional development, or college credit courses from any point in time to address the 45-clock hour requirement.

READ Act Teaching Reading Professional Development

The READ Act requires an assurance by every school district that each teacher employed to teach kindergarten through 3rd grade has submitted evidence to CDE indicating the successful completion of evidence-based training in teaching reading by the 2021-22 school year.

Approval of Continuing Education Units (CEU), Courses, and Professional Development

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) does not pre-approve CEUs, training or professional development workshops, conferences or in-services. There is such a wide variety of professional development that is supportive of our teachers that we simply find it impossible to approve all of it.

We leave it to the individual educator to know what is best for them and upon submission of the renewal the educator must clearly indicate how the professional development meets their specific endorsement areas and what educational standards it addresses. Upon evaluation if there appears to be a mismatch between professional development activities and an educator's needs, a formal audit by CDE staff is conducted.

Draft rules presented in November 2019, note the evidence-based training in teaching reading must include a minimum of 45 clock hours and must address the content of the educator preparation literacy standards referenced in the state board's Rules for the Administration of Educator License Endorsements. A teacher is deemed to have successfully completed evidenced-based training in teaching reading if the district submits evidence that the teacher: (a) passed a state board approved assessment of knowledge required to teach reading; or (b) successfully completed a CDE-provided reading training designed to meet this training requirement; or (c) provided documentation of passing a CDE-approved undergraduate or graduate reading course; or (d) provided documentation of passing a CDE-approved district or BOCES reading course; or (e) holds a state of Colorado endorsement as a Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist.

This requirement for professional learning only applies to teachers teaching in a K-3 classroom in a district that accepts READ Act funds. Once a teacher completes the requirement, they will be able to add it to their license as documentation

of completion. This requirement must be met only once by a teacher teaching in grades K-3rd grade and is not dependent on their licensure type (no license, initial, interim, professional, or alternative).

***Please note**, rules for the administration of the READ Act have not been approved by the Colorado State Board of Education as of December 2019. Estimated adoption date is February 2020. Rules are subject to change until full adoption.

Matrix of Educator Professional Learning Requirements

The following is a matrix that outlines current educator license professional learning requirements. If a grade level or content area does not appear here, there are no specific required initiatives for professional development for teachers of those content areas at this time.

Grade Level	**English Language Learner** **Timeline:** Professional License Renewal within the educators next 5-year renewal cycle **Who**: Professional licensed teachers endorsed to teach elementary, English, math, science, or social studies	**READ Act Teaching Reading** **Timeline:** By 2021-22 school year **Who**: All teachers teaching K-3rd grade
Kindergarten	X	X
1st	X	X
2nd	X	X
3rd	X	X
4th	X	
5th	X	
6th	X	
English	X	
Math	X	
Social Studies	X	
Science	X	

Other Areas of Interest for Required Professional Learning

Often, individuals, districts, legislators, and other advocacy groups bring forward requests for required professional learning for educators. Recent requests include special education, computer programming, STEM, dyslexia, student behavior and mental health, trauma informed schools, and school safety.