

**TOPIC: APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST
TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT COLORADO
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

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I. SUMMARY

This action item requests initial approval of a teacher education endorsement in Special Education Generalist at Colorado Christian University.

II. BACKGROUND

This teacher education add-on endorsement may be awarded at either the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate levels. Undergraduate candidates complete this add-on endorsement along with an Elementary Education endorsement and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts. Already licensed elementary teachers may choose to complete the endorsement at the post-baccalaureate level or complete additional graduate level coursework and earn a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction along with the endorsement.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education determines approval of all teacher preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education, upon receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for reviewing and approving proposed teacher preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the proposed programs to ensure that the content of each program is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a teacher candidate to meet the requirements for teacher licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. 22-60.5); CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE). Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, DHE reviews the program proposals for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; screening and counseling of teacher candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field based training; supervised field based experience (at least 800 hours); and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base (C.R.S. 23-1-121.2). In the case of private institutions, DHE will review the proposal only for supervised field based experience (C.R.S. 23-1-121.5).

III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

At its meeting on August 13, 2009, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the program proposal submitted by Colorado Christian University. DHE staff transmitted the affirmative recommendation to the DHE.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the department confirmed that the proposal meets the performance criterion of at least 800 hours of supervised field-based experience when offered with initial licensure.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Special Education Generalist endorsement at Colorado Christian University.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the letter of approval from the State Board of Education are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §22-60.5
C.R.S. §23-1-121