



Julie Poppen, Communications Manager

Office: 303-866-3662, Mobile: 303-941-9367 julie.poppen@dhe.state.co.us

Enrollment in Colorado educator preparation programs decline

DENVER — March 13, 2014 — The legislatively mandated annual report on educator preparation programs released this week found that enrollment in the state’s educator preparation programs in academic year 2012-2013 dipped 6 percent over the previous year. The drop was documented across all age groups in undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate level programs.

Other report highlights:

- Overall enrollment in educator preparation programs in Colorado totaled 11,227 students in 2012-13.
- The largest number of candidates enrolled in elementary education programs, followed by culturally and linguistically diverse education, principal, special education generalist, and social studies.
- High-need areas including early childhood education, culturally and linguistically diverse education specialist, bilingual education, foreign language, science, and special education generalist all experienced declines in enrollment.
- Mathematics experienced a slight increase in enrollment.
- The largest program-level enrollment declines of those with more than 10 students enrolled were in teacher librarian and instructional technology teacher, which declined 52 percent and 50 percent, respectively.
- Minority students are slightly underrepresented in educator preparation programs compared to their overall representation in four-year colleges and universities in the state.

Over time, this report will evolve to include more outcomes-based data on how well educator preparation programs are doing in terms of preparing graduates for actual teaching jobs in a changing educational landscape. This data will include graduates’ overall educator effectiveness rating (Highly Effective, Effective, Partially Effective, Ineffective), as well as ratings on the individual quality standards, including student academic growth.

Senate Bill 10-191 (The Great Teachers and Great Leaders Act) requires the adoption of new Educator Quality Standards. Educator preparation programs are in the process of aligning their programs to these new standards.

To aid in the transition to these new standards, the Rose Community Foundation awarded a grant to the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Higher

Education, which led to the creation of the Educator Preparation Project in June 2013. Through two pilot projects, this initiative, run through the Colorado Department of Higher Education, aims to identify a strategic and effective process for embedding Colorado's education initiatives into educator preparation programs and for disseminating lessons learned to support the success of educator preparation programs.

Find the complete educator preparation annual report at
http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Legislative/TED/201403_TED_toGGA.pdf

Find information on the Educator Preparation Project at
<http://highered.colorado.gov/academics/TeacherEd/EdPrepProject.html>

Find more information on Colorado's educator effectiveness policies at
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness>

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