Colorado Educator Preparation at a Glance

Program Completion

Declining completion continues to impact Colorado districts. Completion dropped 2.2% since last year, continuing a six-year trend. Since 2010, completion has dropped 24%.

Program Enrollment

Enrollment has flat-lined. Even with three new programs launched this year, enrollment is still down 23% since 2010.

Fast Facts

In 2015-2016:
- 3,268 individuals completed an educator preparation program, 25% of whom went through an alternative licensure route
- 9,896 students enrolled in education preparation programs

Since 2010:
- 24% drop in education preparation program completions
- 23% drop in enrollment

Statewide completers by teaching area
- 4 Business education
- 6 agriculture and natural resources
- 31 world language
- 84 mathematics
- 101 early childhood
- 108 science
- 751 elementary education
Completion Breakdown

Most Colorado students completed traditional programs through a college or university. About a quarter went through an alternative license route, such as an online program.

Why the decline?

To students, education careers seem difficult, low-paying and thankless.

Reviewing national and state surveys—as well as our own qualitative research—we’ve identified three main reasons why students opt for other career fields:

- **Perception:** Job is undesirable and teachers seem undervalued by society.
- **Compensation:** In many Colorado communities, the pay does not cover basic costs of living.
- **Return on Investment:** Low salaries result in students struggling to pay back college loans.

What can we do about it?

**Colorado must act on this looming crisis.** DHE and the Colorado Department of Education are working on key initiatives, including:

- Lifting up the value of the profession
- Developing a plan to better recruit and retain teachers, looking closely at compensation
- Researching and implementing new educator pathways that maintain quality and maximize retention
- Supporting ongoing work in rural districts and with STEM teacher development

Where can I learn more?

For more information on educator preparation programs, visit

- Educator Preparation in Colorado: [http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/TeacherEd](http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/TeacherEd)