



**COLORADO**

**Department of  
Higher Education**

Fact Sheet

## Colorado Rural Teaching Fellowship

The Rural Colorado Grow Your Own Educator Act (House Bill 18-1002) was signed into law to address rural teacher shortages by creating the Colorado Rural Teaching Fellowship. The Teaching Fellowship supports the first strategic goal detailed in the department's master plan for higher education: credential completion. Given that the fellowship is a pathway for rural teacher candidates to obtain their Colorado teaching license, it serves as a strategy to increase educator preparation credentials in Colorado.

The fellowship is a year-long clinical experience for teacher candidates in the final year of their teacher preparation programs jointly designed by rural local education providers (rural schools/districts/BOCES/charter schools) and educator preparation programs (EPP) at institutes of higher education.

The rural teaching fellowship stipend is \$10,000 —The Colorado Department of Higher Education contributes 50 percent and the institute of higher education contributes 50 percent through the candidate's financial aid package. Preference may be given to candidates who return to their home rural communities. As part of the fellowship program, teacher candidates commit to teaching in the same rural school district for two additional years beyond the fellowship year if offered employment. The Colorado Department of Higher Education can award a maximum of 100 fellowships per year.

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### Eligible partnerships must meet the following criteria:

- Rural providers must demonstrate a serious need in hiring or retaining teachers;
- Rural providers and EPP partners must design an individualized, one-year teaching fellowship for each fellow, outlining the roles and expectations of both parties including: the fellow selection and match with school/district process, the school's provision of a mentor who is an effective teacher, the LEP's commitment to hire the fellow and joint responsibility for year-long support and assessment of the fellow.

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### Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Enrollment in an approved teacher preparation program at a Colorado institute of higher education;
- Placement in a year-long clinical teaching experience within a Colorado rural school for the final year of their preparation program;
- Commitment to teach for two years in the rural district of the year-long clinical experience upon completing the preparation program and securing a Colorado teaching license.

For additional information, including application materials, please visit: [Colorado Center for Rural Education](#).

### For More Information

Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

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