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Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 24-0319	<b>Date:</b>	June 28, 2024
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. McCormick; Armagost Sen. Kirkmeyer; Marchman	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Signed into Law
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**Bill Topic: PROFESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING**

<b>Summary of Fiscal Impact:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School District

The bill allows a special education teacher endorsement to be issued to an applicant who completes an alternative teacher preparation program and requires that the State Board of Education adopt rules for the amount and type of work experience required to complete the alternative program and receive the endorsement. The bill increases state and school district workload.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows a special education teacher endorsement to be issued to an applicant who completes an alternative teacher preparation program for special education approved by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). It specifies that:

- a person with a professional teaching license may continue in their current position while participating in an alternative teacher preparation program for the purpose of receiving the special education endorsement; and
- requires the State Board of Education adopt rules establishing the amount and type of experience working with students with a disability required in an alternative preparation program to receive the endorsement.

Background

Under current law, CDE offers a variety of special education educator endorsements, including generalist and specialist endorsements for special education and early childhood special education, and endorsements as a deaf/hard of hearing or visual impairment specialist. An educator must complete either a special education degree at an approved institution of higher

education or an approved alternative education program, as well as pass content-based exams to obtain an endorsement. Exact degree and exam requirements vary by endorsement type.

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) issues Early Childhood Professional Credentials to early childhood educators. There are six levels of credentials depending on training and experience level. Educators who obtain an early childhood special education endorsement at CDE can also be eligible for the credential offered by CDEC.

### **State Expenditures**

The bill increases workload in the CDE for the State Board of Education to adopt rules establishing the amount and type of experience working with students with a disability a participant in an alternative teacher preparation program must complete to receive the special education endorsement. Legal services for rulemaking are provided by the Department of Law, and can be accomplished within existing legal services appropriations. CDE workload may also increase in future years to the extent that additional applications for a special education endorsement are received. No change in appropriations is required.

The bill may also minimally increase workload for the CDEC to ensure that the requirements for early childhood credentials align with the rules adopted by the State Board of Education. No change in appropriations is required.

### **School District**

The bill increases workload for any school district that runs an alternative preparation program for special education to ensure that it aligns with State Board of Education rules related to hours and type of special education experience. Districts may also modify procedures to allow currently employed teachers to participate.

### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on April 19, 2024.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Early Childhood

Education

Law

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The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).