

# STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

April 13, 2022

**TOPIC:** SB 21-185 Educator Pathway

**PRESENTED BY:** Dr. Landon Pirius, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs

**EXPLANATION:** SB 21-185 prescribed that the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) design an educator career pathway no later than the 2022-23 academic year for students to enter the teaching profession. It also called for collaboration on this design with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the SBCCOE, and deans and academic administrators of Colorado institutions of higher education.

A working group made up of the partners above, along with voices from districts and TEACH Colorado, has been meeting since November to construct the pathway, beginning with the curriculum that prospective educators must take at the beginning of the pathway and now focused on a system of wraparound services to support those candidates.

The slate of courses that has been devised combines the following:

- Initial education coursework that introduces candidates to the teaching field and examines important issues in education such as culturally responsive education, working with families, educational technology, and child development;
- Early field experiences to allow these early educators the opportunity to work directly with current educators and students;
- And general education courses that provide a basis for “maximally portable” transfer to undergraduate programs around the state.

This pathway and curriculum also serve as the backbone for the Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation (TREP) program, which was created in the same bill. The TREP program, which is similar to the ASCENT program, allows students to complete concurrent enrollment courses in fifth and sixth years of high school through state funding for tuition.

The working group has been cognizant of the fact that the coursework that makes up this pathway had to be ready for implementation by the 2022-23 academic year. Consequently, it needed to focus on including courses that are already offered widely and could easily transfer to most if not all four-year institutions across Colorado.

Current educator preparation programs are all uniquely built to serve the needs of Colorado and nearby districts and require time to make programmatic changes. We hope to continue to innovate this pathway in subsequent years by working closely with our institutional partners, including CCCS.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of the coursework per statute

**ATTACHMENT(S):**  
Educator Pathway and TREP Fact Sheet  
SB 21-185