

Highly Qualified Teachers

Pursuant to federal law, teachers of core academic subjects (English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography) must be highly qualified as defined by the State of Colorado, as follows:

Elementary School (K-6) Teacher

A highly qualified elementary school teacher is an elementary school teacher who holds at least a Colorado Provisional Teacher License, with an endorsement in “Elementary Education.” To qualify for such a license the highly qualified elementary teacher must:

1. possess a Bachelor’s degree
2. have completed an approved regular or alternative teacher education preparation program in elementary education
3. have passed the Colorado state education content area test

Secondary School Teacher (teaching only in his/her academic major field)

A highly qualified secondary school teacher is a teacher who holds at least a Colorado Provisional Teacher License, with an endorsement in a field consistent with his/her academic major. To qualify for such a license the highly qualified secondary teacher must:

1. possess a Bachelor’s degree
2. have completed an approved regular or alternative teacher education preparation program in secondary education
3. have passed the Colorado state content area test in his/her major teaching area

Secondary School (7-12) Teacher (teaching in more than one field)

A highly qualified secondary teacher who teaches in more than one field, must in addition to the qualifications listed above, have at least 24 semester hours of specific college preparation in each field or subject area in which he/she teaches or have passed the Colorado state teacher content area test in each of the fields in which he/she teaches.

Alternatively-prepared teachers

A highly qualified alternatively-prepared (alternative or teacher in residence program) elementary or secondary teacher will be considered highly qualified while in the alternative program if the teacher:

1. receives high quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused in order to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction, before and while teaching; and
2. participates in a program of intensive supervision that consists of structured guidance and regular ongoing support for teachers or in a teacher mentoring program; and
3. participates in a program that does not exceed three years in duration; and
4. demonstrates satisfactory progress towards full licensure.

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 1119 (*definition of highly qualified teacher contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*)

34 C.F.R. 200.55 (*federal regulations regarding highly qualified teachers*)

CROSS REFS.: GCE/GCF, Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring

GCA, Professional Staff Positions