



Rural Alternative Licensure Stipend

The Colorado Center for Rural Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education seek to encourage talented teacher candidates to student teach in Colorado rural school districts and eventually become a teacher in a Colorado rural school district. The Rural Alternative Licensure Stipend (RALS) provides up to \$6,000 of funding to pay for the cost of an alternative licensure program. Stipend recipients are expected to work in a Colorado rural school district for three (3) years after completing their alternative licensure program and having received their initial teaching license from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). If selected as a Rural Alternative Licensure Scholar, the recipient will receive half of the stipend at the start of their program and the remaining half when they have received their initial license from CDE.

Application Requirements

Eligible Applicants Must Meet the Following Criteria:

- Be enrolled in an approved Alternative Licensure Program
- Be employed as an educator in a Colorado rural school district.
- Be committed to teach in a Colorado rural school district for three (3) years after receiving their initial license from CDE.
- Maintain communications with the Colorado Center of Rural Education staff to share experiences, complete surveys, and provide a letter from the alternative licensure program provider or administrator verifying the awardee has received their initial license and remains employed in a rural school district.

Eligibility Preference

Awardees must commit to teach for three years in one of the rural school districts (especially small rural school districts with less than 1000 students) that are located 50 miles or more from major metropolitan areas and outside of the Front-Range region of Colorado.

Definition of Rural School District

For the purpose of this stipend, any Colorado school district with a student enrollment of 6500 students or less is defined as a rural school district. Preference for student teaching placement will be given to those school districts that are also located 50 miles or more from major metropolitan areas and outside of the Front-Range region of Colorado.

Questions about the RALS can be directed to Dr. Valerie Sherman, Rural Education Coordinator at the Colorado Center for Rural Education: valerie.sherman@unco.edu; (970) 351-3061 (office).

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