



How to Pay for College to Become a Teacher in Colorado

Updated 10.7.2025

Options for High School Students

- High School Concurrent Enrollment: up to 60 credit hours FREE
 - <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>
- TREP (Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation): up to 2 years of college FREE
 - <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/trep>
- ASCENT (Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment)-sunsets June 30, 2026: up to 39 credit hours FREE
 - https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/ce_ascent

Options for College and University Students

- Earn money by serving as a paraprofessional and/or substitute teacher.
 - Colorado substitutes make an average of \$25.50 per hour (Indeed).
 - Colorado paraprofessionals make an average of \$20.49 per hour (Indeed).
- Career Advance Colorado: consult with your community college to receive up to 60 credit hours FREE
 - <https://cccs.edu/new-students/explore-programs/zero-cost-training-programs/career-advance-colorado/>
- Colorado Promise: Students who attend Colorado public institutions of higher education with family incomes of \$90,000 or less are eligible for COMPLETE REIMBURSEMENT of any out-of-pocket tuition and fees they pay.
 - <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/colorado-promise>
- Colorado College Opportunity Fund: \$116 per credit hour (public colleges) and \$58 per credit hour (private colleges)
 - <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/programs-services/the-college-opportunity-fund>
- Pell Grant: For the 2025–26 award year, the maximum Pell Grant through FAFSA award is \$7,395.
 - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>
- CDE ERR (Colorado Department of Education Educator Recruitment and Retention): up to \$10,000
 - <https://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoralent/recruitmentoutline>
- Colorado Center for Rural Education Student Teaching Stipend: \$4,000
 - <https://www.unco.edu/colorado-center-for-rural-education/stipends/student-teaching-stipend.aspx>
- Colorado Center for Rural In-Service Educator Stipend: \$6,000
 - <https://www.unco.edu/colorado-center-for-rural-education/stipends/concurrent-enrollment-educator-qualification-scholarship.aspx>
- CDHE (Colorado Department of Higher Education) Rural Teaching Fellowship: up to \$10,000
 - <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/rural-teaching-fellowship>
- CDHE Educator Loan Forgiveness: up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness annually
 - <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/colorado-educator-loan-forgiveness>
- Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE) and local Colorado Workforce Centers: Free or supplemental educational opportunities
 - <https://cdle.colorado.gov/jobs-training/workforce-centers>
- USDOE TEACH Grant (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education): up to \$4,000
 - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach>
- Serve Colorado: variable living stipends
 - <https://servecolorado.colorado.gov/Education>
- TEACH Colorado: variable scholarships and application fee reimbursements
 - ontch.org/financialaid

To learn more, join an upcoming virtual open house:

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