



How to Pay for College to Become and Stay a Teacher in Colorado

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Colorado Employment

- Earn money by serving as a paraprofessional and/or substitute teacher.
 - Colorado paraprofessionals make \$21.22 per hour on average. (Indeed)
 - Colorado substitutes make \$17.78 per hour on average. (Indeed)

Colorado Center for Rural Education Programs

- Colorado Rural Alternative Licensure Stipend (RALS): \$4,500
 - <https://www.unco.edu/ebs/centers-institutes/rural-education/rural-alternative-licensure-stipend/>
- Colorado Rural Inservice Educator Stipend (RIES): \$6,000
 - <https://www.unco.edu/ebs/centers-institutes/rural-education/rural-inservice-educator-stipend/>
- Colorado Rural Student Teacher Stipend (CRTS): \$4,000
 - <https://www.unco.edu/ebs/centers-institutes/rural-education/colorado-rural-student-teaching-stipend/>
- National Board Certified Teacher Stipend (NBCT): \$4,250
 - <https://www.unco.edu/ebs/centers-institutes/rural-education/national-board-certified-teacher-stipend/>
- Special Service Provider Stipend (SSPS): \$6,000
 - <https://www.unco.edu/ebs/centers-institutes/rural-education/special-services-provider-stipend/>

Colorado Department of Education Programs

- CDE ERR (Educator Recruitment and Retention): up to \$7,500
 - NOTE: The max award prior to 2026-2027 was \$10,000.
 - <https://ed.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent/errprogram>
- High School Concurrent Enrollment: up to 60 credit hours FREE
 - <https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>

Colorado Department of Higher Education Programs

- 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>
- 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 Rural Teaching Fellowship: \$10,000
 - <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/rural-teaching-fellowship>

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

- Colorado Workforce Centers: free or supplemental educational opportunities
 - <https://cdle.colorado.gov/jobs-training/workforce-centers>

Federal Programs

- Pell Grant: For the 2026–27 award year, the maximum Pell Grant through FAFSA award is \$7,395.
 - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness: The PSLF forgives the remaining balance on a direct loan.
 - <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>
- USDOE TEACH Grant (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education): up to \$4,000
 - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach>

State of Colorado Programs

- Serve Colorado: variable living stipends
 - <https://servecolorado.colorado.gov/Education>

TEACH Colorado Programs

- TEACH Colorado: variable scholarships and application fee reimbursements
 - <https://colorado.teach.org/financial-support>

To learn more, join an upcoming virtual open house:

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