



Rural Alternative Licensure Stipend

The Colorado Center for Rural Education and the Colorado Department of Higher Education encourage talented individuals interested in teaching to enroll in an alternative licensure program and work in a rural or small rural school district in Colorado. The Rural Alternative Licensure Stipend (RALS) provides recipients with up to \$6,000 to pay for a variety of program-related costs (e.g., Alternative Licensure program-, PRAXIS-, Alternative License-, Initial License-, technology- and travel-related costs). If selected as a RALS Scholar, the recipient will receive half the stipend amount at the start of their alternative licensure program and the remaining half after obtaining an Initial License from the Colorado Department of Education.

Eligible Applicants Must Meet the Following Criteria:

1. Evidence of employment in a rural or small rural school district.
2. Alternative License from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) **or** Completed Statement of Assurance if Alternative License has not been received.
3. Prepare a written statement summarizing your commitment to quality rural education and the expected value to be added to your school district upon completion of the program.
4. Commitment to remain in a rural school district for a period of three (3) years after receiving an initial teaching license from CDE.
5. A letter of recommendation and endorsement from the applicant's school principal or district superintendent delineating how this position will benefit the school/district.
(NOTE: LETTER IS ENCOURAGED, BUT NOT REQUIRED)

Preference will be given to applicants who meet these requirements:

- Willingness to teach 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.
- 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).