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Contact
Eric Duncan
National Council on Teacher Quality
eduncan@nctq.org
(202) 393-0020 ext. 130

COLORADO TEACHER PREP PROGRAMS RATED IN NCTQ'S 2018 TEACHER PREP REVIEW

RATINGS HIGHLIGHT DISCONNECT between PREPARATION TEACHERS GET and REAL DEMANDS OF TEACHING; LACK of PREP MAY CONTRIBUTE TO FLAT NAEP RESULTS

Washington DC – Today, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) releases its [latest ratings for traditional graduate and alternative route programs](#) preparing either elementary or secondary teachers, including five traditional graduate programs and three alternative route programs based in Colorado.

Teacher Prep Review results for Colorado

Highest ranked elementary programs (national percentile out of 194 programs):

- University of Colorado Denver (69th)
- University of Denver (32nd)

Highest ranked secondary programs (national percentile out of 406 programs):

- Boettcher Teacher Residency (53rd)
- Denver Teacher Residency (40th)
- Teach For America (Colorado) (40th)
- University of Colorado Denver (31st)

Programs earn top marks for having strong admission criteria and providing candidates with both the content knowledge and instructional techniques needed to enter the classroom ready to teach. The best programs do more to instill classroom management skills and systematically provide high-quality practice opportunities.

The full list of Colorado's graduate and alternative route programs can be found [here](#).

Key Findings for Colorado

- Programs' preparation of **elementary teachers** is uneven.
 - The **University of Colorado Denver**, one of the two elementary programs reviewed, provides basic instruction in how to teach young children to read. Nationally, 23 percent of programs provide this

instruction.

- Neither of the elementary programs reviewed attends to the specific math content elementary teachers need. Nationally, just 1 percent of programs provide such content, under the mistaken impression that elementary mathematics does not require specialized coursework.
- Programs either presume subject matter knowledge in science and social studies or discount its importance, as neither of the programs reviewed in Colorado adequately screen elementary candidates for content knowledge in these subjects. Eighteen percent do so nationally.
- **High school teacher preparation** is mixed. Compared to other states, Colorado is better in some ways and worse in others.
 - None of the five programs reviewed ensure all science and social studies teachers possess adequate content knowledge. Nationally, 36 percent of programs address the need for science and social studies teachers to know multiple subjects through adequate admissions screening or by requiring candidates to complete additional subject area coursework.
 - Every program reviewed in Colorado requires aspiring high school teachers to take a course in the best ways to teach their specific subject, which exceeds the national rate of 70 percent.
- With all the emphasis on providing teacher candidates with more and better practice, of the eight Colorado programs evaluated only **Boettcher Teacher Residency** pays sufficient attention to basic indicators of quality such as the teaching skills of the classroom mentor and providing regular observations and feedback to each candidate. The national average in this area is 6 percent. The need to build classroom management skills is sometimes overlooked, with only 57 percent (better than the national rate of 15 percent) of programs adequately verifying the classroom management skills of candidates.

A full analysis of the findings can be found [here](#).

Recommendations: Based on these findings, programs need to take several essential steps to provide stronger training to aspiring teachers.

1. Focus relentlessly on the need for future elementary teachers to be ready to teach reading and math, the two most important aspects of their job.
2. Prescreen applicants to make sure they already know the core content they will teach—or be prepared to prescribe the necessary remediation.
3. Programs should better use student teaching and internships as an opportunity to give constructive, targeted feedback on specific classroom management strategies that are found to be universally effective.

“By better aligning teacher preparation with the real demands of teaching, Colorado’s teacher prep programs could play a major role in boosting the quality of new teachers in the state and improving learning in schools. What a privilege and opportunity this represents,” commented Kate Walsh, president of the National Council on Teacher Quality. “As the new NAEP results suggest, the status quo in training teachers is simply insufficient for our students’ needs.”

To schedule an interview with Rob Rickenbrode, Senior Managing Director of Teacher Prep Strategies, please

contact Eric Duncan at eduncan@nctq.org or (202) 393-0020 ext. 130.

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About the National Council on Teacher Quality:

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) is a nonpartisan research and policy group committed to modernizing the teaching profession and based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. NCTQ is the nation's expert on the quality of teacher preparation programs and evaluates national teacher education against evidence-based criteria. More information about NCTQ can be found on our website, www.nctq.org