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Colorado Department of Higher Education awards nearly \$2 million in grants to fight teacher shortage
Plan Into Action grants fund partnerships among education preparation providers and school districts

DENVER, Oct. 17, 2018 – The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) awarded nearly \$2 million to 17 collaborative projects designed to recruit and retain more educators, state officials announced today.

[The Plan Into Action grantees](#) include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) and traditional and alternative educator training programs from across the state. Among several strategies, the projects will establish teacher residency programs, leverage technology for improved professional support and encourage more teacher candidates to specialize in high-need content areas. The grant was established in partnership with the Colorado Center for Rural Education and as part of [House Bill 18-1332](#), which was signed by Gov. John Hickenlooper this May.

“Teachers are the backbone of our education system and critical to our state’s long-term success,” CDHE executive director Dan Baer said. “These funds will strengthen the relationships among our institutions, alternative programs and the schools in their backyard, helping communities cultivate their own teacher corps and better support those already in the classroom.”

With their partners, the following awardees will implement one-year projects with the given funds:

- Fort Lewis College School of Education, \$125,000
- University of Northern Colorado School of Teacher Education, \$120,324
- University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development, \$124,999
- Center for Rural School Health and Education at the University of Denver Morgridge College of Education, \$123,950
- University of Colorado Boulder School of Education, \$124,661
- St. Vrain Valley Schools, \$125,000
- Regis University, \$123,926
- Colorado College, \$63,199
- South Central BOCES, \$115,909
- Colorado Christian University, \$ 106,515
- Colorado State University Center for Educator Preparation, \$124,865
- Colorado Mountain College, \$79,500
- University of Northern Colorado Center for Urban Education, \$125,000
- Western State Colorado University (two grants for \$96,500 and \$103,850, respectively)
- Public Education & Business Coalition (two grants for \$124,605 and \$124,160, respectively)

As part of the grant agreement, awardees will track project outcomes and identify best practices to share and scale statewide. To read specific project partners and objectives, [see the Plan Into Action webpage](#).

Supporting “grow your own” programs and improving teacher mentorship were two of dozens of recommendations outlined in a [strategic plan](#) and [complementary report](#) published last year that aims to curb

Colorado's teacher shortage. Enrollment in and completion of educator preparation programs have declined by 24 and 17 percent respectively since 2010, and nearly a third of Colorado educators will be eligible for retirement over the next several years.

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