



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Master's Degree Program

A Master's Degree and Induction Program
For Novice Teachers

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

What is Partners in Education (PIE)?

Partners in Education (PIE) is a unique opportunity for novice teachers entering their 1st-3rd years of teaching to earn their master's degree with an explicit focus on their classroom experience while working with professors at a prestigious, nationally ranked university. PIE teachers work as full-time teachers for one year at a *reduced salary*, benefitting from *reduced tuition* and *intensive coaching* while earning credits toward a master's degree at CU-Boulder's School of Education.

The PIE program is a cooperative venture with the School of Education at CU-Boulder and its partner districts: Boulder Valley School District, St. Vrain Valley Schools, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, and Brighton 27J School District. *

A PIE Teacher Is:

PIE teachers should be eager to collaborate with a mentor and other PIE teachers, motivated to obtain a master's degree, and capable of handling the dual demands of full-time teaching and graduate study. PIE teachers have teaching assignments in one of the partner districts mentioned above. PIE teachers must meet *ALL* of the following four requirements:

- Be a successful applicant in the School of Education Graduate School, meeting the 2.75 cumulative undergraduate grade point average requirements
- Hold a valid Colorado initial teaching license at the time of employment
- Be recommended for a PIE position with the district (PIE positions are limited)
- Be hired for a teaching position in a participating district

Master's Degree Program Options for PIE Teachers

PIE teachers can pursue graduate degrees in either the Curriculum and Instruction or Educational Equity and Cultural Diversity (EECD) masters' programs. Both programs are open to elementary and secondary level teachers. For specific program details, please visit the website at: <http://www.colorado.edu/education/prospective-students/graduate-programs>.

Curriculum and Instruction graduate programs are available in K-12 Math/Science, K-12 Humanities or K-12 Literacy. The Educational Equity and Cultural Diversity graduate program for PIE teachers is exclusively for Linguistically Diverse Education. Graduates of this program will be eligible for the Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement from the Colorado Department of Education. **Please note that these additional requirements are associated with the EECD master's degree: candidates must teach in a linguistically diverse school classroom at some point during the program and take four additional credits.**

Benefits for a PIE Teacher

In exchange for a reduced salary the 1st year, PIE teachers receive the following benefits:

- Intensive coaching and support 1/2 day each week in your classroom from an expert district teacher in the role of a clinical professor. Clinical professors can help you set up your classroom, plan instruction, develop classroom management strategies, team teach, and work with students, parents/guardians and other teachers.
- Six hours of graduate credit at a significantly reduced tuition and fee rate. The six hours taken with the clinical professor during the first year are designed to assist the PIE teacher in making strong connections between current research and classroom practice. Course requirements include semi-monthly seminars at *PIE district sites* instead of weekly classes on the CU campus, progress toward individual professional goals, activities and exercises aligned to district induction expectations, and a focus on inquiry and reflection as teachers. After the six uniquely PIE credits are taken, PIE teachers proceed in the master's program at their own pace, completing and paying for courses at a pace manageable for the individual. Typically, PIE teachers take two more graduate courses the summer immediately following their "PIE year." These courses all take place on the CU campus and on the standard graduate school tuition and fee schedule.

- More rapid advancement on the salary scale. Additional raises for graduate course work eventually make up the first-year salary reduction. In the long run, former PIE teachers make more money when compared to their first-year teacher counterparts who did not begin a master's degree early in their careers.
- Opportunities to network with other novice teachers from your own and other school districts. PIE teachers share ideas and provide additional support through regular seminar activities.
- Medical insurance, sick days and personal leave days according to your district's policies.
- Exceptionally high levels of professional growth and job satisfaction. Principals report that PIE teachers progress much more rapidly than other new teachers. This growth is attributed to high-quality classroom coaching and the application of ideas learned in graduate course work. In the words of one recent PIE graduate:

"I can't believe how much I've learned! I've learned management, planning, types of assessments, new activities, and reflection. I'm more of a facilitator. I'm developing my philosophy – what I am as an educator, what I believe...."

How to Apply

CU admissions and district hiring are run independently of each other and are on different timelines. Therefore, teachers interested in PIE must pursue graduate admissions at CU-Boulder WHILE researching employment options at the partner districts. The following is the recommended sequence of steps for application to the program:

- Please refer to the University of Colorado School of Education Application Instructions at http://www.colorado.edu/education/sites/default/files/attached-files/MA_Admission_Requirements_0.pdf for important information and dates.
- Apply for a teaching position at any of the three participating districts you are interested in.
- Contact the clinical professor(s)/TOSA in participating district(s) to indicate your intention to participate in PIE and learn about district hiring timelines. Contact information is listed below.
- Participate in district screening interviews in early spring to secure a recommendation for a PIE position in the district.
- Secure teaching position in a participating district.

***Applicants should confirm the extent of participation (number of PIE spaces available) with each district.**

Contact Us

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St. Vrain Valley School District

http://www.stvrainopd.org/publications/pie_flier_11-12.pdf

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Boulder Valley School

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Adams 12 Five Star Schools

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