



Delivering Collaborative Solutions
that Promote Learning

Regional Consortia Alternative Route Teacher Preparation Program Contact: Alison Park at apark@esd123.org or at 509-544-5750

Fact Sheet

What is a regional consortia alternative route teacher preparation program?

A consortium consists of a partnership that includes four higher education institutions, the ESD, and districts within the ESD. The goal of the consortia program is to prepare teachers in shortage areas to take jobs where they currently live. The minimum number of interns for the program is 10; the maximum to be accepted is 15.

The common design features of these programs include:

- A **performance-based mentored internship** of one school year or less. Interns are assigned to work full-time with a mentor teacher in his/her classroom beginning with the first day of school in the district and concluding with the last day. Early exit is an option for interns who complete a minimum of half of the year, provide evidence that verifies that the learner outcomes for the program have been met, and for whom the mentor teacher and consortium program supervisor concur that all program requirements have been met.
- **Formalized learning opportunities** offered by the colleges/universities on or near school/ESD sites, online, or via K-20. Interns register for modules with up to four institutions during the course of the summer and first semester/fall-winter quarters of the internship. The modules focus on specific learner outcomes and performance indicators. The delivery of the modules is a combination of face to face meetings, online opportunities, and interaction via K-20. Interns will create an electronic portfolio that contains evidence related to the program learner outcomes and performance indicators.

Who qualifies to participate in these programs?

- **Currently employed classified staff, including paraeducators**, with a baccalaureate degree in subject matter shortage areas (special education, mathematics, general science, middle school mathematics and science, chemistry, physics, biology, instrumental music, early childhood special education, choral music, English as a Second Language, bilingual, and Japanese) and/or areas of shortage due to geographic location as documented by the partnership districts, AND
 - District validation of qualifications, including three years of successful student interaction and leadership as classified staff;
 - A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
 - Meet the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements for teachers (all candidates must have fingerprint clearance prior to assignment to a classroom); and
 - Successful passing of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B) and content area test (WEST-E) for the endorsement area. Information about the tests and testing schedules can be accessed at www.west.nesinc.com
- **Mid-career professionals** with baccalaureate degrees or higher, who are not employed in the district, or who hold emergency substitute certificates. Priority shall be given to individuals with degrees that qualify them for endorsements in the subject matter shortage areas noted

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above or identified by partnership districts within the consortia programs. In addition, candidates via this route must have:

- One year career work experience;
- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated successful experience with students or children, such as reference letters and letters of support from previous employers;
- Meet the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements for all teachers (all candidates must have fingerprint clearance prior to assignment to a classroom); and
- Successful passing of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B) and content area test (WEST-E) for the endorsement area. Information about the tests and testing schedules can be accessed at www.west.nesinc.com

➤ **Individuals teaching with conditional certificates.** The eligible criteria for mid-career professionals apply to these individuals. Priority will be given to individuals teaching in shortage areas and/or “core academic subjects” as defined by federal legislation (No Child Left Behind).

What will the program cost?

The tuition is one “package price” based on a combination of the different tuition rates of the four institutions that will provide the program. This price is currently being determined and is not expected to exceed \$8,000.

A limited number of \$8,000 conditional loan scholarships will be available. The conditional loan scholarship is a loan that can be forgiven in exchange for teaching service in a designated shortage area. The state shall forgive one year of the loan obligation for every two years a recipient teaches in a Washington public school in a shortage area. Failure to meet the service obligation will result in repayment of the loan with interest and fees. It is anticipated that the actual number of conditional loan scholarships available in the regional consortia programs will be identified in mid to late April.

How do I know if the Regional Consortia Alternative Route Program is right for me?

Given that these programs are performance-based with a clear focus on certification standards, there are some clear expectations for candidates:

- Committed to teaching as a career choice
- Ability to participate in self-directed and independent learning
- Managing one’s schedule to permit assignment to a classroom everyday/all day for the length of the school year
- Qualify for an endorsement in a teaching shortage area (hold a degree in the shortage area of in an area that is very closely related so as to be able to pass the WEST-E content test in the endorsement area)
- Committed to seeking and obtaining a teaching position in a district within ESD 123 region
- Exhibit strong interpersonal and collaboration skills

How do I apply for admission?

Contact Alison Park at 509-544-5750 to request an application.