



Out-of-State Online Educator Licensure Programs

Out-of-State Online Educator Preparation Program Approval

When an educator preparation program in an institution located outside of Iowa seeks to offer programs in Iowa **via distance education only**; the institution is required to obtain appropriate authorization from **Iowa College Aid**. If the institution **has a bricks-and-mortar** presence in Iowa in addition to the Iowa College Aid postsecondary authorization, they are required to complete full program approval as outlined in Iowa Administrative Rules Chapter 79 for all online and face to face preparation programs that are offered to Iowa Candidates.

Out-of-state institutions of higher education authorized to offer educator preparation programs to Iowa candidates are required to:

1. Ensure authorization to perform in the state of Iowa
2. Continue to comply with the U.S. Department of Education approved accreditor, and state licensure program approval for the state where the institution is located.
3. Communicate with the candidates
 - the program completion expectations with the candidates
 - whether or not the preparation program is approved by the licensing authority in the state where the program resides
 - whether or not the program leads to state licensure, which then may qualify the candidate for Iowa license through the reciprocity agreement (see reciprocity qualifications below)

256.152 License to applicants from other states or countries.

Iowa Board of Educational Examiners may issue a license to an applicant from another state or country if the applicant files evidence of the possession of the required or equivalent requirements with the board, including any of the following:

- (1) A full license from another state or country, which shall not include a temporary license or an emergency license.
- (2) Verification from an institution located in another state that the applicant has completed all program and licensure requirements with the exception of any assessments required by the state.

Important Notice for Prospective Educator Preparation Program Candidates

The Iowa Department of Education **does not approve out-of-state online educator preparation programs** for the purpose of obtaining an Iowa educator license.

However, out-of-state programs that intend to operate or offer instruction to Iowa residents are required to meet **postsecondary authorization requirements** as outlined by **Iowa College Aid**.

If you are considering enrolling in an **educator preparation program located outside of Iowa**, please ensure the following before proceeding:

- The program is **accredited** by a U.S. Department of Education approved accreditor.
- The program has official **approval from the educator licensure authority** in the state in which the institution maintains its primary physical presence.
- The program leads to an **educator license in that state**.

Once the candidate has completed an approved out-of-state preparation program, and received the license in that state, they can apply to receive an Iowa license through a reciprocity agreement. Meeting these criteria is essential for ensuring the program meets minimum standards and may support future licensure efforts in Iowa, though additional Iowa-specific requirements will still apply. Iowa reciprocity agreements provide two options to candidates who have completed out-of-state licensure preparation programs.

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More Information:

- [Educator Licensure in Iowa \(Educational Examiners\)](#)
- [Postsecondary School Authorization in Iowa \(Iowa College Aid\)](#)