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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

Spring 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Applicants for **NM Transition to Teaching OPAL** Support Program
FROM: The **NM Transition to Teaching Program** Staff
RE: **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Deadline for Application: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Thank you for your interest in the **NM Transition to Teaching OPAL** Support Program (NMT2T). The NMT2T program is looking for teacher candidates who will bring experience, knowledge, skills, and passion to NM's high-need classrooms. We support post-baccalaureate candidates who want to build on their knowledge and experience in order to earn their New Mexico Level 1A license through the OPAL process.

Eligible candidates who already hold at least a bachelors degree may begin teaching on an Intern Teacher License while fulfilling the requirements for a Level 1A NM License through the online portfolio route. Transition to Teaching candidates will earn their level 1A license by meeting the requirements and preparing an online portfolio that demonstrates the competencies (*classroom management, professional communication, standards and benchmarks, inclusion & diversity*) needed for earning their NM Level 1A teaching licenses. Each online portfolio is evaluated by the Public Education Department's approved evaluators. To participate in the **NM Transition to Teaching Program**, candidates must teach in a high need district and in a high need school. The following information will guide you through the process of applying to, and, completing this program. Acceptance into the NMT2T program is competitive, so please be thorough as you prepare this application.

You have several options for earning a NM Level 1A Teaching License, we encourage you to choose the pathway that will best facilitate your success in the classroom and your ability to facilitate your students' success. If you have questions as you review the following information on how to earn your teaching license in New Mexico, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to support your effort and desire to enter the teaching profession in New Mexico.

How to Apply For and Earn a Teaching License through the Alternative Licensure Online Portfolio Pathway and get supported by the NM Transition to Teaching Program

What to Complete in Order to Obtain an Intern License, Find a Teaching Position, and Enter NMT2T:

1. Hold a bachelors degree, or higher, including an acceptable GPA for admission to a New Mexico University Graduate Program
2. Decide what you want to teach. Please note: In order to obtain an intern license /NM Level I Alternative License you must meet content coursework requirements as follows:
 - *elementary or special education*: 30 undergraduate credit hours or twelve graduate credit hours of coursework in any combination of the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, history, fine or performing arts and foreign language;
 - *K-12 or secondary*: 30 undergraduate credit hours or twelve graduate credit hours in your chosen content area.
3. Register for at the least one of the required New Mexico Teacher Assessments (NMTA). We recommend starting with the Basic Skills Test. You can register by going to www.nmta.nesinc.com
4. Complete the **Haberman "Star Teacher" On-Line Pre-Screener** by going to <http://www.habermanfoundation.org/prescreeners.asp?page=On-Line%20Pre-Screeners>. The Pre-Screener will cost \$20 to take, and the results print immediately after you complete it. **Submit the results of the Pre-Screener with your application** to the NMT2T program. Note: Submitting the results of the Pre-Screener is a required component of the NMT2T application for admission. However, the results will be used solely for a needs assessment and will have NO bearing on your admission to the NMT2T program.
5. Apply for the *Teaching Intern License*, by downloading [Intern licensure application](http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/ais/lic/index.html).” An application is available at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/ais/lic/index.html>
6. Complete and submit an Application for the New Mexico Transition to Teaching Program. Note: The NMT2T program has been designed to support candidates who are planning to earn their NM Level 1A Teaching License through the Alternative Licensure Portfolio Pathway AND who commit to teaching in a high need district and school for three years. Please check the list of high need districts at our website: www.teachnm.org .

What to Complete in Order to Earn a NM Level 1A Alternative Teaching License through the Portfolio Route, with the Support of the NM Transition to Teaching Program:

- Take and pass all required NMTA's; you can register by going to www.nmta.nesinc.com
- Complete required reading courses through the Santa Fe Community College's On-line or On-Campus program. NMT2T will pay the Santa Fe Community College directly for each candidate to take the required reading course(s) (6 hours for early childhood, elementary or special education; 3 hours for secondary education or k-12). To sign up contact t2t@unm.edu.
- Complete IRIS modules by logging into NM T2T on the upper right hand side of the IRIS website: <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>
- Complete program workshops on effective teaching and learning in New Mexico. For information please contact the Institute for Professional Development at t2t@unm.edu or (505) 277-1998, or www.teachnm.org . It is recommended that you complete these workshops prior to taking the NMTA Teacher Competency test.
- Work with your assigned portfolio coach on portfolio preparation
- Create your portfolio for the alternative licensure review panel
- After being a teacher of record, not a substitute or educational assistant (EA), for at least 160 days, submit your Online Portfolio for Alternative Licensure (OPAL) for evaluation.



NEW MEXICO'S TRANSITION TO TEACHING
ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE ONLINE PORTFOLIO SUPPORT PROGRAM
505-827-3578 (phone) ~ 505-827-3525 (fax) ~ www.teachnm.org
Mailing Address: 444 Galisteo, Suite A, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501