

Academic Pathway to Teaching

A recent report was presented to the Utah State Board of Education tracking teacher retention data over the last five years across the state of Utah. Based on the report, staggering statistics showed in 2010 that approximately 2,400 new teachers entered the teaching profession, but after five years, more than 1,000 teachers have left the profession. The USBE teacher retention report can be viewed at <http://schools.utah.gov/board/Meetings/Agenda/docs/TAB14.aspx>. In an effort to remedy the teacher shortage situation, on June 10, 2016, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) gave final approval for a new pathway to allow individuals to receive a teaching license. The new Academic Pathway to Teaching (APT) will become effective on August 7, 2016. The ATP pathway allows for individuals who currently hold a bachelor's degree or higher to pass a praxis test, successfully complete an ethics review and pass a background check to obtain a Level 1 teaching license. If the individual is employed by a school district, they will be assigned to a master teacher who will serve as their mentor.

For more information on the ATP program, you can access the following link <http://www.schools.utah.gov/law/Administrative-Rules/USBE/2016/JuneAgenda/R277511R1.aspx>. The new ATP pathway is a fast track process compared to the old Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) program. The old ARL program also allowed individuals with a bachelor's degree to obtain a Level 1 teaching license. The same USBE teacher report shows 133 teachers across the state of Utah received an ARL in 2010-2011, but with only 77 teachers still in the teaching profession during the 2014-2015 school year, there was only a 57% retention rate. We are very fortunate at Kane District to have highly qualified teachers to provide quality academic instruction to our students. Additionally, because Kane District provides one of the highest beginning teacher salaries in the state, the district has been able to attract and retain licensed teachers. If you have questions regarding teacher licensure, please feel free to contact us at the district office.

Ben Dalton
Superintendent
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