

# Become an Educator.

## Every Student Needs a Teacher Who Looks Like Them.

### We need more teachers of color.

Studies consistently show that teachers of color have a profound and positive impact on all students, and especially on students of color. A 2018 report from the Learning Policy Institute identified the benefits for students of having diverse teachers as “higher test scores, higher graduation rates, lower dropout rates, lower suspension rates, and more interest in post-secondary education.” Yet, the proportion of teachers of color in the workforce continues to lag far behind the share of students of color in our schools.

**Colorado needs teachers of color like you. Just 13% of Colorado’s teachers are teachers of color, even though almost 50% of the state’s students are nonwhite** (Colorado Department of Education, 2020).

**To get started on the road to becoming a teacher, choose an educator preparation program that’s right for you. Use this checklist to evaluate prospective programs:**

- ✓ Percentage of faculty of color
- ✓ Percentage of students of color
- ✓ Mentorship program(s) within school of education focused on students of color
- ✓ Affinity group(s) within school of education focused on students of color
- ✓ Structured support to help students of color understand the financial aid process and funding opportunities

*For more information about educator preparation programs in Colorado, scan this QR code.*



**Your preparation to become a teacher can begin before your senior year. Here is what you can do to get started:**

- ✓ Before your senior year. If you have not already, get clear on what you value, what options exist for you, and then be honest about what choices make the most sense. Search for routes into education and rank your choices. A great place to start is the [Colorado Department of Education](#), which has a list of options.
- ✓ Senior year. There is a lot that needs to get done. Put everything on a calendar and chip away at it little by little instead of all at once. A few important dates: The [FAFSA](#) application process opens in October and the [Common Application](#) is due in December/January. Speak with your counselor about other deadlines, including scholarship applications. You will need to select your program by May.
- ✓ After being accepted. Complete college tasks and find your community. Connect with your incoming class and find extracurricular activities and affinity groups on campus, specifically for people of color. Once you find them, join them!

*For more details and information about the preparation process, scan this QR code.*

