

Work and Learn NorthWest: Special Education License

The Work and Learn Program aims to recruit, prepare, retain and support highly qualified paraprofessionals and Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers on their journey to become a Tier 3 licensed teacher in Independent School District 728. It provides an affordable, accessible, and accelerated program to earn a Minnesota teaching license and master's degree in 2.5 years.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Individuals who are dedicated to education are employees or will become employees of the district, and have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Candidates from underrepresented backgrounds who reflect our diverse student populations are encouraged to apply.

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

- Participants will take a combination of online and/or face-to-face courses in a cohort model at a district sponsored educational site.
- Participants will take a maximum of two courses each semester.

Year 1				Year 2				Year 2.5	
J-Term	Spring	Summer	Fall	J-Term	Spring	Summer	Fall	J-Term	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Engagement • Effective Teaching and Learning • Educational Equity & Inclusive Practices • Literacy Development • Fundamental Special Education Courses 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Method courses • Disability Specific Method courses • Field Experiences • Master's Research course (add on) 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Teaching (on the job) 	

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

Program	Credits
Initial Academic Behavior Strategist License Coursework	31 credits
Add on Master's Degree Coursework	3 credits
Optional Add on Additional License (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Disabilities, Early Childhood Special Education, Emotional Behavior Disorders, Learning Disabilities)	9-12 credits (includes shortened student teaching)

- University of St. Thomas tuition for MA degree = Approximately \$685 per credit
- Cost of books is an additional fee and varies by course
- Participants may be eligible for Federal student loan forgiveness while teaching
- Financial aid available

AFTER INITIAL LICENSE

The University of St. Thomas makes it very easy to add on additional licenses with 2-3 additional courses per disability area.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Contact Barbara Jo Stahl - bjstahl@stthomas.edu or 952-250-2057



**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT 728**

ELK RIVER | OTSEGO | ROGERS | ZIMMERMAN