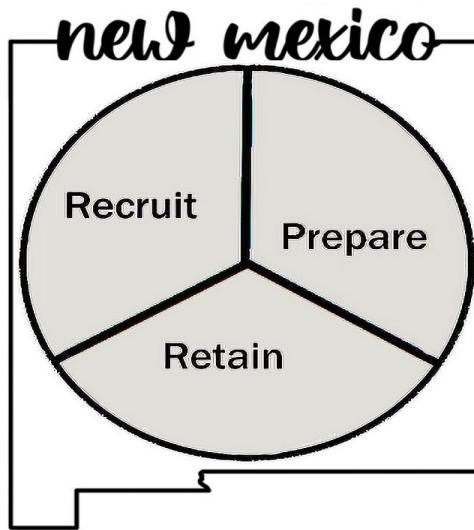




LEAP is a state-accredited alternative licensure program for new teachers across New Mexico, approved by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). Offered by CES in Albuquerque, LEAP supports aspiring educators through a dynamic and supportive pathway to licensure. The program is available statewide and includes monthly in-person training held in three regional hubs: Albuquerque, Artesia, and Las Cruces.

LEAP is designed to empower new teachers with the tools, coaching, and confidence they need to succeed and grow in the classroom—right from the start!



**CES LEAP is an alternative teacher preparation program** across New Mexico designed for full-time classroom teachers in their first year. Candidates are selected through an **application** and **interview** process, they begin their LEAP journey each **July with Pre-Service**, an **induction** to teaching, and end it with **LEAP Into Action**, a conference celebrating their completion the following June in Albuquerque.

Over the following 11 months, LEAP candidates participate in cohort-based professional development alongside 200 early-career educators across New Mexico. They receive weekly support from **experienced instructional coaches**, who are **career educators dedicated to mentoring** new teachers.

#### **Professional development in LEAP:**

**Methods:** Monthly evening sessions focused on teaching at the PreK, Elementary, Secondary and Special Education level

**Saturday PD:** Monthly full-day Saturday workshops, held in person across three regional hubs

**1:1 Coaching:** Inclusive of classroom visits and networking throughout program

Upon successful completion, candidates receive a **Transcript** and **LEAP Certificate of Completion** and are supported in applying for a **Level 1 teaching license** through the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED).



## Program Length

- The shortest ALP offered in NM, LEAP is 11 months spanning July-June.

## Program Benefits

- 1:1 LEAP Coach assigned during program; virtual coaching occurs monthly.
- 1 year towards ERB retirement is earned *during* program, salary and benefits *during* program are equivalent to 1st year teachers in New Mexico.
- LEAP is not affiliated with residencies or any IHE, teachers must be a *Teacher of Record* during LEAP and teach in New Mexico.
- Dual-Licensure options are unlike any other state offering for LEAP candidates, allowing candidates to choose Elementary & Special Education or Secondary & Special-Education while in program, finishing program for *two* licenses, instead of just one.
- Post-program supports (TESOL endorsement, Bilingual Endorsement, CALP certification) are paid for by CES LEAP once candidates complete.

## Program Pathways & Licensure Testing

- Elementary K-6
- Secondary 8-12
- Special Education K-12
  - Secondary + Special Education = Dual Secondary
  - Elementary + Special Education = Dual Elementary
- LEAP candidates who are pursuing Level 1 licensure may select the Portfolio or Praxis pathway and LEAP candidates adding additional licensure to already held licenses are exempt from initial portfolio in program.

## Program Cost per Candidate

- \$2000.00 per candidate per semester (\$4000.00 program tuition total)
- Books \$200 apiece, varies.
- Travel (to regional PD each month, June conference in Albuquerque, accommodations), varies.

## Program Contact

- Applications: Tim Flores (tflores@ces.org)
- Rene Rohrer, LEAP Facilitator ([Rohrer@ces.org](mailto:Rohrer@ces.org))
  - Alexis Esslinger, LEAP Director ([Alexis@ces.org](mailto:Alexis@ces.org))