

Types of Educator Licenses issued by the Utah State Board of Education

Professional Educator License: The PEL is for anyone who held a Level 1, 2, or 3 Utah Educator License on July 1, 2020 or who completes a University licensing program.

Associate Educator License: The AEL is for anyone who wants to become a Utah teacher, but has not completed an educator preparation program (university-based or alternate program). An AEL is a non-transferable license. An AEL is awarded through application to the USBE.

Requirements for an AEL include:

- Be currently enrolled in a Utah university Education Preparation Program.
- Have a bachelor's degree or higher with a major in the field in which one is seeking licensing **or** pass the appropriate Praxis test.
- Educators not enrolled in a University program will be enrolled in and complete a state approved LEA training - Alternate Pathway to Professional Educator License (APPEL)-program. APPEL is a comprehensive program administered by an entity that is intended to prepare individuals to meet the requirements for a Utah professional license or license area of concentration. APPEL is typically a three-year program.

LEA-Specific Educator License: An LEA-Specific Educator License is issued by the state board at the request of an LEA's governing body (i.e. local school board) that is valid for an employee to fill a position if the LEA if other licensing routes for the applicant are untenable or unreasonable. The LEA has adopted a policy in accordance to R277-301-7, to prepare and support educators with an LEA Specific. An LEA Specific License can be issued for 1, 2, or 3 years. LEA Specific licenses in the area of Special Education are valid for one year only and may not be renewed.

Spectrum Academy requirements for an LEA Specific License include:

- Have a bachelor's degree or be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program (except for certain licensure areas such as CTE where at least 4 years of directly related professional experience is required).
- Be involved in a mentoring program which includes a trained mentor educator who holds a professional educator license.
- Complete additional trainings as required by the LEA and USBE.

The USBE licensing system underwent massive changes effective July 1, 2020 – that, combined with the challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, has required many of our educators to be issued an LEA Specific License while working through the AEL application process.