

ESD-U

ESD 112 NOW OFFERS TEACHER CERTIFICATIONS



THE CHALLENGE

We are facing a **teacher shortage crisis** in our region and state—especially in high demand areas such as Special Education, English Language Learning, and Elementary Education.

THE SOLUTION

With the encouragement and support of our 30 member districts, ESD 112 applied to the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) to become an alternate route to certification provider. The Board approved our application, **making ESD 112 the only entity that is not a college or university to offer teacher certifications in the state of Washington.**

THE CANDIDATES

The 2018-2019 cohort drew 135 interested individuals from large and small school districts who completed a candidate interest form to obtain certification or added endorsement through ESD-U. Of those, 45 were paraeducators working in schools throughout the ESD 112 region.

THE ADVANTAGES

ESD 112 has drawn on its longstanding reputation as a trusted partner with local school districts to design a teacher certification program that is connected and responsive to our district's needs.

- » It is nearly half the cost for initial residency certification candidates to attend ESD-U than a college or university.
- » ESD-U is designed and taught by practicing teachers and administrators who are knowledgeable and experienced classroom instructors.
- » ESD-U also focuses on retaining initial residency certification teachers by providing extended support and mentoring throughout the first three years of their career.
- » ESD-U helps districts “grow their own” so our teacher corps better reflects our region’s demographics, values, and interests.
- » We provide opportunities for classified staff who are already connected and currently working in our schools.
- » ESD-U focuses on the areas of greatest need—Special Education, English Language Learners, and Elementary Education in year 2.
- » Our program could be replicated at other ESDs throughout our state.

