



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: As more and more Arkansans find themselves facing an uncertain financial future, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) encourages individuals to consider teaching as a career. Options are available for those with a college degree or, in some technical areas, without.

Anyone holding bachelor's degrees from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university could make the transition into a secondary classroom by next fall through the department's non-traditional licensure program or one of six master of arts in teaching or master of education programs at Arkansas universities. Both of these programs enable qualified individuals to begin teaching while obtaining the skills and knowledge to be successful in the classroom.

Interested persons should call the ADE Office of Teacher Quality by mid-March at 501-371-1580 and make an appointment to learn more about these options as well as about how to apply for the Non-Traditional Licensure Program, the test(s) required and the documents that must be provided. Information can also be accessed at www.teacharkansas.org.

Content areas with the highest demand for licensed teachers are mathematics, life science, physical science and foreign language. In certain areas of the state there is also a high demand for English, social studies, art, drama/speech, music and physical education, wellness and leisure teachers.

Those who have been working in such areas as the automotive industry, nursing, engineering or computer-technology who do not have a bachelor's degree or for whom there is not an area of teacher's licensing available may be able to teach after taking a skills assessment and following the steps to earn a Vocational Teaching Permit. For more information in these areas, call the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education at 501-682-1040.

"We noticed that we were receiving an increasing number of calls from people who had recently been laid off from their jobs and therefore were considering a change in careers," said Beverly Williams, ADE assistant commissioner for human resources/licensure. "We realized this could be a win-win opportunity for the school children of Arkansas and for individuals who may have thought about teaching but

never seriously pursued it. We tell them, 'This is your time to do what you have always wanted to do. We need professionals interested in making a difference in a child's life.'"

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.