

Partnership in Education (P.I.E.)

Get a headstart on your teaching career!

The Partnership in Education (PIE) program is a master's degree program for first, second, and third year teachers employed during the 2009-2010 school year by the St. Vrain Valley School District. It is an intensive, highly supportive program for the professional development of novice teachers.

Learn more about this unique opportunity by attending one of the informational meetings offered in February.



St. Vrain Valley School District Partnership in Education (PIE) Informational Meetings-

Please contact us and we would be happy to set up a meeting with you to talk about the PIE program.

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Partnerships in Education

PIE Teachers Stay in the Profession for Longer

Teachers who participated in the PIE program are rehired, remain in the hiring district, and remain in the profession at a higher rate than other teachers with similar teaching experience. The rate of retention in the teaching profession is significantly higher than the national average of 40-60 percent. Developing and supporting PIE teachers pays off.



Reflections of a PIE Teacher

What am I going to teach tomorrow? Is my classroom set-up effective? Are my students learning what they need to learn? How do I deal with certain home situations? These were only a few of the questions flowing through my mind every waking moment of my first year of teaching. I've often wondered how I survived with such blissful success, and I've come to only one conclusion...the support of the PIE program. Have no doubt that attaining a master's degree and facing the many hurdles of a first year teacher is challenging. However, the advantages of PIE far outweigh any disadvantages.

First of all, having the support of my clinical professor whenever I needed help was the flotation device I needed to prevent my own drowning. Not only did she listen to the problems that arose over the year and help me to resolve them, she made me aware of things during my teaching that were either successful or that needed some refining. Having this instant reflection time strengthened my teaching environment for myself and my students.

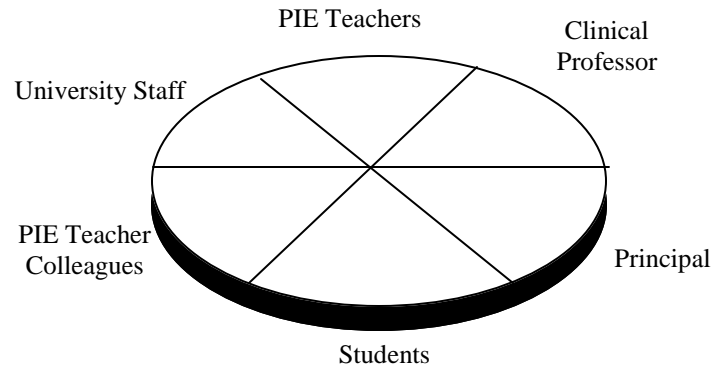
Attending monthly PIE seminars with other teachers was also incredibly helpful. Simply knowing that you're not alone in some of the obstacles you face as a teacher, and having an arena of people to share and problem solve with provides such relief to a busy mind.

Along with the PIE support system, the program offered a beneficial focal point. During my first year, there were countless avenues of teaching to learn, and the PIE program helped me to focus in on several that I felt were the most pressing, so I didn't get lost in a mess of overwhelming chaos. I was also able to conduct my own in-class research project on a subject that I was interested in developing for my own teaching benefit. I truly felt I wasn't just a passive learner while attending classes, rather I was able to learn and apply my learning directly to my classroom. This allowed my students and me to make incredible gains throughout the year, and allowed me to feel successful and motivated to continue.

Over this past year, I have received numerous compliments from other teachers and my students' parents on how my students are doing. They were positively shocked to discover that I was a first year teacher! Thanks to the PIE program and its fabulous support, I am ahead of the game from a teaching, learning, and financial perspective.

-Merica McCarty

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A Collaborative Approach to Professional Development

Current First and Second Year Teachers and Prospective Teachers for 2009-2010

Partners in Education (PIE) is a master's degree program for novice teachers. This opportunity is for teachers who:

- will be first, second, or third year teachers during the 2009-2010 school year
- qualify for graduate level study at the University of Colorado/Boulder
- have demonstrated success in the classroom as student teachers or in their initial years of teaching
- are highly motivated to excel in their practice of teaching as well as at the graduate school level

Graduate Program Choices

PIE teachers may enroll in one of the programs listed below:

Master of Arts in Instruction and Curriculum in the Content Areas

- Emphasis in K-12 Humanities (Language Arts, Social Studies)
- Emphasis in K-12 Mathematics & Science Education
- Literacy/Reading K-12 Endorsement
- Social, Multicultural & Bilingual Foundations of Education Emphasis in Linguistically Diverse Education (EECD Program)

How Does the Program Work?

A PIE teacher works in a full-time position for a year while earning a master's degree from the University of Colorado/Boulder through the School of Education. PIE teachers will be on a reduced salary. In exchange, PIE teachers receive the following benefits:

- Six hours of graduate credit from the University of Colorado at Boulder
- Intensive coaching and support from an expert district teacher (clinical professor)
- Rapid advancement on the salary schedule
- Additional opportunities for professional growth

Step One: Apply to Graduate School

Application and informational materials are available from the School of Education Graduate Office (Room 151 Education Building) on the University of Colorado campus or Campus Box 249, Boulder, CO, 80309. Applications are also available on the CU Website. Please write "PIE Application" on the top of the first page of the application.

Step Two: Apply for a Teaching Position

For PIE applicants not currently employed in SVVSD, teaching applications may be obtained from and returned to the Cooperative Teacher Application Pool, Centennial BOCES, 830 S. Lincoln, Longmont, CO 80501. The phone number is 303-772-4420. Applications are also available at the district website under Vacancy Notices. www.strain.k12.co.us

Step Three: Apply to District PIE Program

Complete a PIE application. You may request a PIE application form from Linda Lang in Professional Development, to be returned to St. Vrain Valley Schools, 395 S. Pratt Parkway, Longmont, CO, 80501, with attention to Linda Lang. The phone number is 303-682-7231.

The Clinical Professor

Support for PIE Teachers

The clinical professor is an expert teacher on a special assignment whose role focuses on the professional development of PIE teachers. In addition to mentoring PIE teachers, the clinical professor has university responsibilities and district professional development assignments.

Today's Clinical Professors

Traci Dille and Kathi Jo Walder are currently serving as Clinical Professors for PIE teachers in the St. Vrain Valley School District. Their responsibilities include mentoring current PIE teachers, teaching university courses, and promoting professional development to teachers and principals across the district.



For answers to your questions, contact ...

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