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# Work and Learn NorthWest:

# Special Education License

The Work and Learn Program aims to recruit, prepare, retain and support highly qualified paraprofessionals and Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers on their journey to become a Tier 3 licensed teacher in Independent School District 728. It provides an affordable, accessible, and accelerated program to earn a Minnesota teaching license and master’s degree in 2.5 years.

# WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Individuals who are dedicated to education are employees or will become employees of the district, and have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution. Candidates from underrepresented backgrounds who reflect our diverse student populations are encouraged to apply.

# WHAT WILL THE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

* Participants will take a combination of online and/or face-to-face courses in a cohort model at a district sponsored educational site.
* Participants will take a maximum of two courses each semester.

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| **Year 1** | | | | | **Year 2** | | | | **Year 2.5** | |
| **J-Term** | **Spring** | **Summer** | **Fall** |  | **J-Term** | **Spring** | **Summer** | **Fall** | **J-Term** | **Spring** |
| * Classroom Engagement * Effective Teaching and Learning * Educational Equity & Inclusive Practices * Literacy Development * Fundamental Special Education Courses | | | |  | * Special Education Method courses * Disability Specific Method courses * Field Experiences * Master’s Research course (add on) | | | | * Student Teaching (on the job) | |

# WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

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| Program | Credits |
| Initial Academic Behavior Strategist License Coursework | 31 credits |
| Add on Master’s Degree Coursework | 3 credits |
| Optional Add on Additional License (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Disabilities, Early Childhood Special Education, Emotional Behavior Disorders, Learning Disabilities) | 9-12 credits (includes shortened student teaching) |

* University of St. Thomas tuition for MA degree = Approximately $685 per credit
* Cost of books is an additional fee and varies by course
* Participants may be eligible for Federal student loan forgiveness while teaching
* Financial aid available

# AFTER INITIAL LICENSE

The University of St. Thomas makes it very easy to add on additional licenses with 2-3 additional courses per disability area.

# QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Contact Barbara Jo Stahl - [bjstahl@stthomas.edu](mailto:bjstahl@stthomas.edu) or 952-250-2057

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