

Chandler RISE FAQ's

Understanding the applications process

1. When can I start?

Participation in Chandler RISE is not guaranteed. While we want to take as many qualified individuals as possible, there is a process to apply and interview with staff and principals. Teaching can be a stressful career so we want to provide participants a placement where they have the best opportunity to succeed.

2. If I interviewed but didn't get a placement, should I bother trying again?

Yes. Think of this like any other job interview. Sometimes the reason you were not selected was that the openings weren't the right fit for you. We would never want to place a teacher in a position that would make teaching more difficult.

3. Can I get some feedback as to what makes a good candidate?

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about working with *all* students to help them succeed. This passion should come through in your documented experience working with children and during the interview. While not required, having experience in public education is helpful. If you cannot currently speak to this, consider researching the district, volunteering in classrooms, signing up to substitute teach a few days a month, or applying to become a paraprofessional. We are also looking for those that are flexible and work well under pressure in past work experience. Being able to take feedback and make adjustments in teaching, while being honest about what help you need is also essential for successful teacher candidates.

4. I'm currently a substitute, am I eligible for this program?

Yes! Anyone with a bachelor's degree in a field outside of education is eligible.

5. Is Chandler RISE open to the public?

Our priority is to place staff members who already have shown a commitment to CUSD first. Depending on the interest of internal staff, applicants from the community may be considered as well.

Cohort 1	General Education	Special Education
Ratio of in to out of district	6:6	11:3

*in district includes paraprofessionals, substitutes, coaches, and community education

6. Is there a specific format for the resume or letters of recommendation?

No specific format is expected for either. If possible, resumes and letters should be kept to one page length. Letters do not need to be addressed to a specific person, To Whom It May Concern will be sufficient.

7. I’ve submitted my application for RISE, what are the next steps?

All applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled as the next step. This will be set up following the application cut off date. Final interviews and selections will be made by principals hosting RISE teachers on their campuses.

8. In which areas of special education could I be placed?

For special education, you could be placed in either a specialized classroom or a resource classroom, and you could be placed in elementary, junior high, or high school. A specialized classroom includes students that a teacher keeps all day long to work on many goals in multiple areas. A specialized classroom could include students with mild-moderate disabilities or communication needs (autism). In a resource classroom, the teacher is working in small increments of time on specific academic or behavioral skills.

Cohort 1		
	Specialized	Resource
Elementary K-6	4	3
Secondary 7-12	5	2

Understanding the commitment

9. What is the homework commitment for Chandler RISE?

We want the coursework to be relevant and useful in the classroom. Lesson plan submission is the only weekly homework for RISE teachers, but this is required for the job regardless. In addition, the state does require us to train teachers for the new literacy endorsement. This training, while planned and implemented by CUSD, is provided through an outside entity. The training takes 2 years and will require time outside of the planned classes.

10. What if I have a commitment during one of the intersession when classes are planned?

Due to the nature of this program, **content cannot be skipped**. Each day of training is 8 hours and required for your certification. Consider applying for the following school year.

11. What if I will just miss one day of July training?

This is one of our non-negotiable. You cannot miss because this is unlike a traditional college program that meets 1-3 times each week. In order to meet the requirements, you need to be in class. Please consider applying the following year.

12. Can I request to be placed at the school in my neighborhood?

No. Placement will be determined on need and which schools participate in the program; however, considerations may be made to place participants in a specific quadrant of the district. Following the introductory 3 years, you are welcome to apply to a school in your own neighborhood.

13. Can I request the grade level I want to teach?

No. This will be determined based on availability in the district. Also, many candidates will think they want to teach a certain grade band, but don't actually know since experience is limited.

Special Circumstances

14. I have experience in the classroom as a substitute teacher, can I get a shortened version of RISE coursework.

No. Chandler RISE is a program accredited by the state of Arizona, just like a university. We can only award certification to those that complete the coursework outlined in our accreditation. Other pathways may exist for this circumstance, please check with the ADE.

15. I'm currently certified 7-12, can I participate to obtain my K-8 certification.

No. This program is designed for individuals that have not received training through an undergraduate program in education. There are other options available if you are looking to switch career paths within education. The [Arizona Teacher's Academy](#) offers tuition coverage for those that want to pursue a master's degree if they agree to teach in Arizona schools.

16. I currently teach in a charter school but I do not have a bachelor's degree in education, can I take advantage of this opportunity?

We will review these applications on a case by case basis. Our main goal is to train and retain those in our community who have wanted to teach but have not had the opportunity to due to cost and/or time.

17. I have a bachelor's degree from a different country. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, however for any certification, all foreign transcripts must be evaluated. This process can take some time so plan accordingly. Click [HERE](#) for information on the Evaluation Agencies accepted by the ADE.

18. I've been in a different district's program for a year, but would like to transfer to the Chandler program. How do I do that?

Each district's program is different and coursework is not transferable. Since the programs are all 2 years, it would be best to finish training for certification in the district where you started and then apply for a position in Chandler once you are certified.

19. I will be graduating with my bachelor's degree in December. Can an exception be made for my circumstance?

No. Our program's accreditation only allows those with a bachelor's degree posted prior to the start date of the cohort.

The Hiring Process & Alternative Certification

20. Who makes the final decision for placement?

We invite the principals from the schools hosting RISE candidates to participate in a second interview. They know best the grade level team where the RISE teacher will be placed. They will make the final decision about who would be a good fit for their site and team.

21. I've been recommended for the program, what does that mean?

You have been selected to participate pending board approval. In order to be officially hired, you must have been approved for employment at a board meeting. In the meantime, onboarding will be processing paperwork, checking references, and preparing letters of intent. If you haven't obtained your IVP fingerprint clearance card, you will need this prior to the start of the school year.

22. How do I get an Alternative Teaching Certificate?

Once you receive your letter of intent, RISE participants are able to apply for the ATC. The district will send in the letter required directly to the state department. You will need to order official transcripts to be sent directly to the ADE and upload a copy of your fingerprint clearance card when you apply.

23. Who do I speak with to negotiate my salary?

Unfortunately public education works differently than the corporate world. Teachers in RISE will receive a beginning teacher's salary. Advanced degrees *may* provide a bump if it is a degree related to education. Additionally there are stipends that teachers can earn throughout the year that are not part of the salary. These can change from year to year and therefore are not part of your salary.

24. Who do I contact to answer my certification questions?

Any question about obtaining certification through the state should be directed to Kathleen Jett. She is our Director of Recruitment and Onboarding and can be reached via email at jett.kathleen@cusd80.com.

25. When can I get my keys and see my classroom?

We encourage all site administrators to reach out to RISE teachers and meet them on campus. This allows for staff to make connections prior to the rush of back to school. Each site has different processes and procedures for checking out keys and moving into the classrooms.

Resources

26. I've been offered a position in RISE, are there books or other resources you recommend to prepare me for the start of the school year?

Any reading or resources on classroom management are recommended. There are countless books and websites that provide information. A tried and true book that teachers have read at university for decades is The First Days of School by Harry Wong. He has updated it over the years, but the foundations of classroom management are the same. If you have a chance to observe a classroom in the grade you are teaching, it may be helpful for you to see how the teacher manages that classroom. Management is by far the most difficult part of teaching for any first year teacher.

27. Where do I find things for my classroom?

Once you have met your principal, you can ask what your supply budget is and who you can request supplies from. Each school site is different. Inexpensive places to find items include The Dollar Tree, Target Dollar bins, and Treasures for Teachers. Visit [Treasures for Teachers' website](#) for more information. Of course there are other places to pick up special items you are looking for including Amazon and Lakeshore Learning. There are Facebook groups just for teachers where retiring teachers offer up their classroom items for cheap or free.