



## Merit Preparatory Academy Teacher Licensure

In accordance with the Utah State Board of Education Licensing, the following **designations or levels** apply to educator licenses, license areas, and content endorsements at Merit Preparatory Academy for grades 7-12.

**Professional:** The educator has completed an educator preparation program that includes content and pedagogical knowledge. This program may have been completed at a university or in an alternate pathway that was supported by school districts/charters and the Utah State Board of Education.

**Associate:** The educator is currently completing an educator preparation program, but has not yet completed all requirements for a Professional Educator License, license area, or endorsement. The educator is enrolled in a university-based or Local Education Agency (LEA)-based program. When the educator completes the program, they will have a professional level license.

**LEA-Specific:** The educator has not completed an educator preparation program, but is either currently enrolled in one or will soon be enrolled in one.

Merit Preparatory Academy employs individuals holding LEA-Specific educator licenses, license areas, and/or endorsements. At Merit, there are 65.3% of teachers holding professional licenses who are fully qualified, 8.0% holding associate licenses, and 26.7% holding LEA-specific licenses who are not qualified. Of those, licenses being pursued include: Social Studies, ELA, TV/Digital/Video Production, Photo/Graphic Design, and Physical Education. Endorsements being pursued include: German and Health Science.

Specific information about educators and their licensure can be found on the Utah State Board of Education Educator Look-up Tool site at <https://cactus.schools.utah.gov/PersonSearch>.

The Merit Preparatory Academy Board ensures the following assurances:

- 1) Merit Preparatory Academy has adopted a policy, in accordance to R277-301-7, to prepare and support educators with an LEA-Specific license. This policy is posted online at [meritprepacademy.org](http://meritprepacademy.org)
- 2) The educator has completed a criminal background check in accordance with Rule [R277-214](#) and continued monitoring in accordance with Subsection [53G-11-403\(1\)](#).
- 3) Merit will ensure requisite training (educator ethics, classroom management/instruction, special education law/instruction, & Utah Effective Teaching Standards) within the first year of employment
- 4) The educators will complete the USBE Ethics Review within one calendar year prior to being issued the license
- 5) Merit will post all educator data, including assignments, in CACTUS no later than 60 days following the date of the public governing board meeting approving the license area(s) and/or endorsement(s)
- 6) For preschool license areas, the candidate will attain special education law training within the first month of employment
- 7) Merit will prominently post the following on the school's website:
  - a) Disclosure that the Merit employs individuals holding an LEA-Specific educator license, license areas, and/or endorsements;
  - b) An explanation of the types of educator licenses issued by USBE (Professional, Associate, LEA-Specific);
  - c) Percentage (based on FTE) of types of licenses, license areas, and endorsements held by educators employed in the school;
  - d) A link to the Utah Educator Look-up Tool.

The Merit Preparatory Academy Board additionally acknowledges that LEA-Specific educator licenses, license areas, or endorsements may be renewed by the Utah State Board of Education. These renewals will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis.