



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

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## Mission

The [National Association for Alternative Certification \(NAAC\)](#) is the professional organization that advocates for standards-driven nontraditional educator preparation leading to effective school staffing. NAAC reviews trends and issues to inform practices and policies relevant to recruitment, preparation, certification, support, assessment and retention of high performing educators.

## Membership

[NAAC members](#) represent nontraditional preparation programs in 37 states. NAAC members are primarily teacher educators, including **university-based** administrators and faculty in alternative certification programs, administrators of programs based in **school districts, non-profits**, including Educator Service Centers, and **for-profit/private programs**. The Members also include state department of education officials, policymakers, and college of education faculty, school administrators, and leaders of non-profit educational organizations. All share a common goal: seeking the best ways to recruit and prepare highly effective teachers who will impact student achievement in meaningful ways.

## Services and Programs

**[Annual Conference:](#)** A national professional meeting for alternative route program administrators and staff, state agency representatives, researchers, and others to share best practices and research, and learn from colleagues about trends in alternative certification and teacher preparation across the nation.

**[Outstanding New Educator Awards:](#)** Three scholarships of \$1,000 each, awarded annually to outstanding interns/new teachers certified through alternative certification programs

**[Webinars:](#)** electronic seminars covering topics from recruitment and selection to research on student achievement

**[National Database:](#)** a database of alternative certification programs providing prospective career changers with the information needed to make informed decisions

**[Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification \(JNAAC\):](#)** The only peer-reviewed publication focused specifically on alternate routes to certification, providing an important avenue for promoting and disseminating research in the field

**[NAAC Wiki:](#)** an information clearinghouse containing resources for program directors and interns

**[NAAC Research Grants:](#)** Grants in the amount of \$2,000 awarded annually to selected research projects, with recipients presenting their research results at the NAAC annual conference

**[NAAC Newsletter:](#)** An online and print publication highlighting association activities and news from the field

## Title II Higher Education Act, 2015 Information on Alternative Certification Programs

Alternative certification programs

- make up nearly one-third of all teacher certification programs
- attract a higher percentage of diverse candidates, by race and gender
- produce proportionately more teachers in high-need subjects (Special Education, General Science, Mathematics, and English as a Second Language)