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**Educator Preparation Policy**

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**The Background:**

Educator preparation programs serve an important purpose in that they are intended to ensure prospective educators are prepared to meet agreed upon standards of practice upon completion of a program of study. The department's role in supporting this effort is to facilitate the review of the quality and effectiveness of educator preparation providers (EPPs) in Tennessee and specialty area programs (SAPs) they offer. The board's role is to issue approval or denial for EPPs and SAPs based on assessment of the recommendations that result from the review process.

The current review process is cumbersome and overly focused on inputs without adequate attention to outcomes, recruitment and selection strategies, clinical partnerships, and impact of program completers. In the past, two national organizations, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) were approved to review educator preparation providers for the purpose of national accreditation. Tennessee has been an engaged partner with NCATE since 1989. In July 2013, NCATE and TEAC merged to form a new accrediting agency, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). CAEP convened a board of experts to develop a new set of standards that are substantially more focused on EPP outcomes and impact. Over the past year, the Department of Education has engaged Tennessee stakeholders in order to consider what changes should be made to the review process for educator preparation providers and programs.

The proposed item offers a new approach to the approval of educator preparation providers, maintaining those aspects of our process that continue to be relevant and useful, while incorporating the new CAEP standards and adopting processes for the ongoing approval of specialty area programs based on annual reporting processes.

Transitioning the partnership from NCATE to CAEP

Between fall 2014 and fall 2016, the approval process for Tennessee Educator Preparation Providers will transition from alignment with NCATE standards to alignment with CAEP Standards. In addition, during this transition period, the Tennessee Department of Education will work with stakeholders to develop Tennessee-specific requirements, including required evidence, rubrics and definitions for exceeding, meeting and falling below standards.

EPPs that have already achieved conditional or full approval are not required to resubmit proposals for initial approval. These programs will be reviewed according to the cycle that is already in place. The TDOE will require that programs submit proposals for new programs related to interventionist endorsements and subject-specific middle grades endorsements. EPPs currently have elementary and secondary

endorsement programs do not need to submit new proposals for the single grade level change.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.