
Educator Preparation Providers and Specialty Area Program Approvals

The Background:

This item contains action recommendations for Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) and the Specialty Area Programs (SAPs) [SAPs are the endorsement program – e.g., Elementary Education K-5] for the following EPPs.

Comprehensive Reviews of Existing EPPs and SAPs

The Department of Education is responsible for the review of EPPs and SAPs. Once an EPP receives initial approval, the EPP must participate in a full-approval review process, managed by the Department, within three to five (3-5) years.

Once an EPP receives full approval status, the EPP may maintain its approval status through the national CAEP accreditation pathway or through the state-managed comprehensive review process every seven (7) years. Action recommendations made by the Department must be approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to State Board rule 0520-02-04.

Steps in the review process include:

- Reports prepared by the EPP that responds to the CAEP national accreditation standards and state specialty program standards;
- On-site review conducted by a state-selected and trained on-site review team using the Tennessee Comprehensive Review handbook and, for EPPs seeking national accreditation, a nationally selected and trained CAEP on-site team;
- On-site review report submitted to the EPP;
- EPP response (rejoinder) to the on-site review report submitted to the Department of Education;
- Evaluation of all reviews by the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Educator Preparation (ACEP); and
- CAEP accreditation/state approval comprehensive review occurs on a seven (7)-year cycle, which may include focused reviews during the interim period.

The Department of Education recommendations for existing EPPs and SAPS fall into one (1) of five (5) categories:

- Full Approval: Exemplary Status,
- Full Approval,
- Full Approval: Minor Stipulations,
- Probationary Approval: Major Stipulations, or
- Denial of Approval.

For EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation, the initial accreditation status is translated to an EPP state approval recommendation by the Department and reviewed by the ACEP. CAEP advanced accreditation decisions are not considered in recommendations to the State Board as advanced-level programs are reviewed as SAPs and each receives a separate status recommendation.

Joint CAEP Accreditation and State Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Reviews:

Christian Brothers University

This joint CAEP/state review took place in spring of 2022. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. No critical deficiencies were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations. All specialty area programs were reviewed, and the recommendations are as follows:

- Full Approval: Elementary Education K-5, English 6-12, English 6-8, Biology 6-12, Chemistry 6-12, Physics 6-12, Science 6-8, History 6-12, Social Studies 6-8; Instructional Leadership pre-K-12, Special Education Interventionist K-8, Special Education interventionist 6-12
- Full Approval, Minor Stipulations: Early Childhood Education pre-K-3, Mathematics 6-12, Mathematics 6-8, Visual ArtsK-12, Reading Specialist pre-K-12

University of Memphis

This state-managed review took place in spring of 2022. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. No critical deficiencies were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations. All reviewed specialty area programs are recommended for full approval.

EPP Status Changes

Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04 states that, for EPPs with full approval, minor stipulations status, the Department may recommend to the State Board removal of the minor stipulations for the remainder of the approval period of the EPP if the EPP has adequately addressed the areas in need of improvement. To be eligible for the removal of the minor stipulations, the EPP must submit to the Department a plan for addressing the areas in need of improvement; the plan is subsequently reviewed and approved by the Department. The Department requires annual progress monitoring in which the EPP submits evidence to demonstrate that progress is being made toward the action plan goals.

Tusculum University

Department reviewers reviewed the EPP action plan and subsequent evidence provided during annual progress monitoring reviews since 2021. The Department concluded that the EPP meets expectations in the areas in need of improvement and recommends removal of the minor stipulations. The provider is recommended for a status change to full approval.

King University

Department reviewers reviewed the EPP action plan and subsequent evidence provided during annual progress monitoring reviews since 2021. The Department concluded that the EPP meets expectations in the areas in need of improvement and recommends removal of the minor stipulations. The provider is recommended for a status change to full approval.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring EPPs are reviewed regularly and held to high standards in order to best prepare teacher candidates.

The Recommendation:

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