
Educator Preparation Providers and Specialty Area Program Approvals

The Background:

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

Comprehensive Reviews of Existing EPPs/SAPs

The Department of Education is responsible for the review of EPPs and the SAPs offered by in-state educator preparation providers. Action recommendations made by the Department must be approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to State Board rule.

Steps in the review process include:

- Report prepared by the EPP that responds to the CAEP national accreditation standards and state specialty program standards;
- On-site review conducted by an On-site Review team; for national accreditation, CAEP on-site team also conducts a review;
- On-site review report submitted to the EPP;
- EPP response to the on-site review report submitted to the department;
- Department presents recommendations to the State Board of Education; and
- CAEP accreditation/state approval comprehensive review occurs on a seven-year cycle, which may include focused reviews during the interim period.

The Department of Education recommendations for existing EPPs and Specialty Area Programs fall into one of four categories: Full Approval, Approval (Minor Stipulations), Probationary Approval (Major Stipulations), or Denial of Approval. For EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation, the accreditation status is reported.

Joint CAEP Accreditation/State Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Review:

Tennessee Technological University

This joint CAEP/State review took place in spring of 2018. 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, along with 30 specialty area programs.

State-Only EPP and Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Review:

Aquinas College

This state-only review took place in the spring of 2018. 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 along with 17 specialty area programs.

New EPPs/SAPs Seeking Initial Approval

In accordance with the Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04, after review of a proposal for initial approval of an EPP, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one of the following:

- a) Initial approval. If initial approval is awarded, providers may begin enrolling and subsequently recommending candidates for licensure in approved specialty areas; or
- b) Denial of initial approval. If initial approval is denied, providers may not recommend candidates for licensure or identify programs as leading to licensure. Providers may submit a revised proposal for consideration during the next review period.

Rutherford County Schools, Called to Educate

The Department of Education reviewed the Rutherford County Schools *Called to Educate* proposal for a recommendation of initial approval as a new EPP and associated SAP for occupational educator preparation. The review considered key components of the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04 and Educator Preparation Policy 5.504 related to initial EPP and SAP approval.

The Department review team concluded that Rutherford County Schools meets expectations on the initial EPP proposal and should be granted initial approval to proceed with implementation of the new EPP and recommend eligible occupational educator preparation candidates for all respective occupational endorsements. Rutherford County Schools is therefore recommended for initial approval.

The Recommendation:

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