
Educator Preparation Providers (EPP) and Specialty Area Program (SAP) Approvals

The Background:

Attached are 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. National CAEP accreditation and state approval comprehensive reviews occur on a seven-year cycle. Action recommendations made by the Department must be approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to State Board rules 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-year cycle, which may include focused reviews during the interim period.

The Department of Education recommendations for existing EPPs and SAPs fall into one of five categories:

1. Full Approval: Exemplary Status,
2. Full Approval,
3. Full Approval: Minor Stipulations,
4. Probationary Approval: Major Stipulations, or
5. 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

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

This joint CAEP/state review took place in fall of 2020. 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 all specialty area programs.

New EPPs and 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.

Lane College

The Department of Education reviewed Lane College proposal for a recommendation of initial approval as a new EPP and associated SAPs in elementary education. The review considered key components of the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rules 0520-02-04 Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, and Literacy and Specialty Area Standards Policy 5.505 related to initial EPP and SAP approval.

The Department review team concluded that Lane College meets expectations on the initial EPP proposal and should be granted initial approval to proceed with implementation of the new EPP and recommend eligible educator preparation candidates for endorsements in elementary education.

Lane College is therefore recommended for initial approval.

Arete Memphis Public Montessori Residency

The Department of Education reviewed the Arete Memphis Public Montessori Residency proposal for a recommendation of initial approval as a new EPP and associated SAPs in early childhood and elementary education. The review considered key components of the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rules 0520-02-04 Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, and Literacy and Specialty Area Standards Policy 5.505 related to initial EPP and SAP approval.

The Department review team concluded that Arete Memphis Public Montessori Residency meets expectations on the initial EPP proposal and should be granted initial approval to proceed with implementation of the new EPP and recommend eligible educator preparation candidates for endorsements in early childhood and elementary education.

Arete Memphis Public Montessori Residency is therefore recommended for initial approval.

Knox County

The Department of Education reviewed the Knox County proposal for a recommendation of initial approval as a new EPP and associated SAPs in occupational endorsements. The review considered key components of the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rules 0520-02-04 Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, and Literacy and Specialty Area Standards Policy 5.505 related to initial EPP and SAP approval.

The Department review team concluded that Knox County meets expectations on the initial EPP proposal and should be granted initial approval to proceed with implementation of the new EPP and recommend eligible educator preparation candidates for endorsements in occupational education.

Knox County 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.