

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
 EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER STATUS CHANGE
 Tusculum University
 FEBRUARY 10, 2023**

Department Recommendation: EPP and specialty area program status change from Full Approval, Minor Stipulations to Full Approval

EPP Status Change

Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04 states for EPPs with full approval, minor stipulations status, if the EPP has adequately addressed the areas in need of improvement, the Department may recommend to the State Board removal of the minor stipulations for the remainder of the approval period of the EPP. 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 where the EPP submits evidence to demonstrate progress is made towards the action plan goals.

Context

On July 24, 2020, the State Board of Education (SBE) took action regarding the approval status of the Tusculum University Educator Preparation Provider (EPP), the School of Education. The action was preceded by a state-managed comprehensive review process, which included a November 3-5, 2019, on-site visit conducted by a state review team and subsequent post-visit procedures

The EPP outcome of board action was full approval, minor stipulations. The Tusculum University final report cited two (2) minor stipulations across two (2) of the five (5) CAEP standards. Within three (3) months of the SBE vote, Tusculum University worked with TDOE to develop and implement an action plan focused on the following minor stipulations:

STANDARD 3: Candidate Quality, Recruitment, and Selectivity

The provider demonstrates that the quality of candidates is a continuing and purposeful part of its responsibility from recruitment through admission, the progression of courses and clinical experiences, and through decisions that completers are prepared to teach effectively and are recommended for licensure. The provider demonstrates that development of candidate quality is the goal of educator preparation in all phases of the program.

Minor Stipulations	Rationale
3.1 – Plan for recruitment: The diversity recruitment plan needs to be expanded and formalized. Resources in addition to the local high school should be identified as possible sources for recruitment with roles and responsibilities delegated. Timeline should list follow-up dates to re-evaluate the plan and deliverables for measuring success.	The recruitment plan included in the evidence was not formalized and lacked detail such as additional resources needed and timeline with follow-up dates.

STANDARD 5: Provider Quality, Continuous Improvement, and Capacity

The provider maintains a quality assurance system comprised of valid data from multiple measures, including evidence of candidates’ and completers’ positive impact on pre-K–12 student learning and

development. The provider supports continuous improvement that is sustained and evidence-based, and that evaluates the effectiveness of its completers. The provider uses the results of inquiry and data collection to establish priorities, enhance program elements and capacity, and test innovations to improve completers’ impact on pre-K–12 student learning and development.

Minor Stipulations	Rationale
<p>5.4 – Completer data sharing and actionability: The EPP does not clearly demonstrate measures of completer data are shared widely and are acted upon.</p>	<p>The evidence provided by the EPP for continuous improvement using measures of completer data in self-study and addendum was not sufficiently corroborated during the on-site visit. The EPP did not demonstrate a pattern of sharing and acting upon measures of completer data. The evidence provided and corroborated does not clearly demonstrate measures of Satisfaction of Employers (component 4.3) and Satisfaction of Completers (component 4.4) are shared widely and are acted upon. Therefore, the review team determined a minor stipulation.</p>

Action Plan and Progress Monitoring

In response to the SBE Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04 requirement, the EPP developed the content of the action plan, which included goals, strategies, timelines, and performance measures. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Department and the EPP began implementation of the action plan immediately.

In September 2021, the Department conducted a review of progress the EPP made since the implementation of the action plan. The progress review enabled the EPP to provide descriptions and supporting evidence of progress made in addressing each of the two (2) minor stipulations at the provider level cited in the final report through its action plan. The outcome of the September 2021 review by the Department concluded that the EPP provided sufficient evidence that progress was made in addressing each of the minor stipulations as it implements the action plan during this stage of the review. The next review of progress was set for July 2022.

In July 2022, the Department conducted the next progress review of the second set of evidence collected. The outcome of the July 2022 review by the Department concluded that the EPP provided sufficient evidence that progress was made in addressing each of the minor stipulations.

Conclusions

The Department reviewed the EPP action plan and subsequent evidence provided during regular 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 EPP and respective specialty area programs are recommended for a status change to full approval.