
Instructional Leader Preparation Program Approvals

The Background:

As mandated in the Learning Centered Leadership (LCL) Policy, the Tennessee Department of Education is responsible for reviewing Instructional Leader Preparation Programs. Currently, Tennessee's 20 Instructional Leader Preparation Programs operate under conditional approval, a status granted in 2011. Last spring, the department developed a deliberate, streamlined, off-site process to review programs for full approval.

During the summer of 2014, programs submitted evidence to demonstrate alignment with the four key sections of the LCL Policy (Partnership with LEAs, Candidate Selection, Curriculum, and Practicum). To conduct the review, the TDOE identified 15 review team members, composed of TDOE staff, leader preparation program faculty, LEA staff, and individuals from key stakeholder groups, such as the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents and the Tennessee Education Association. Initial reviews were conducted during September and October.

The review process outlined that if a program fell below expectations on any indicator during the initial review, the department would communicate deficiencies and additional evidence requested by review teams to address the concerns. Programs had the opportunity to submit a second set of evidence, which was reviewed in November 2014. Final reports, including overall Action recommendations, were shared with programs in mid-December.

The state review process included:

- Stakeholders, including all leader preparation programs, were given the opportunity to provide input on the review process and tools (e.g. evidence requested and rubrics);
- All programs responded to a request for evidence demonstrating alignment to the four key sections of the Learning Centered Leadership Policy (Partnership with LEAs, Candidate Selection, Curriculum, and Practicum);
- TDOE recruited a diverse group of members (15 total) to serve on four review teams;
- Reviewers were trained and initial reviews of submitted evidence were completed;
- Following initial review, each program was provided with a preliminary report outlining whether the program fell below, met or exceeded standards on each indicator within each key section;

- Programs were provided a second opportunity to submit evidence related to indicators for which programs were rated below expectations on initial review; and
- Final reviews of submitted evidence were completed.

The Department recommendations for Instructional Leader Preparation Programs fall into one of three categories: Approval, Conditional Approval (1 year extension) with Minor Stipulations, or Conditional Approval (1 year extension) with Major Stipulations. The Action recommendations made by the Department must be approved by the State Board of Education. Attached are action recommendations for Instructional Leader Preparation Programs:

Full Approval:

Austin Peay State University
 Carson-Newman University
 Christian Brothers University
 Cumberland University
 East Tennessee State University
 Freed-Hardeman University
 Lee University
 Lincoln Memorial University
 Lipscomb University
 Tennessee State University
 Tennessee Technological University
 Trevecca Nazarene University
 Union University
 University of Tennessee Knoxville
 University of Tennessee Knoxville – Leadership Academy
 University of Tennessee Martin

Conditional Approval (1-year) – Minor Stipulations:

University of Tennessee Chattanooga (Independently requested extension)

Conditional Approval (1-year) - Major Stipulations (on-site visit required):

Bethel University
 Middle Tennessee State University
 University of Memphis

The Recommendation:

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