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## Instructional Leader Preparation Program Approvals

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### 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, school district personnel, 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. Final reports, including overall Action recommendations, were shared with programs in mid-December 2014.

Sixteen programs met expectations and were recommended for full approval in January 2015. The remaining four programs (Bethel University, Middle Tennessee State University, the University of Memphis, and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga) did not meet all expectations and, therefore, did not receive full approval based on the 2014 review process. These programs were required to submit additional evidence addressing identified areas of concern.

The University of Memphis elected to close the existing leader preparation program and has submitted a proposal for a new program. The remaining three programs provided additional evidence during the summer of 2015. Review teams considered the additional evidence. Based on this review, Bethel University and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga met or exceeded all expectations and are recommended for Full Approval. The program at Middle Tennessee State University did not achieve a rating of met or exceeded on all indicators. The department recommends that the program receive Approval with Stipulations. MTSU must adequately address critical deficiencies prior to receiving a recommendation of Full Approval. Following State Board action in January 2016, TDOE will communicate with MTSU to develop a specific timeline for addressing stated deficiencies and facilitate an onsite visit which will result in a recommendation of full approval or denial of approval. Throughout the Spring 2016, TDOE will direct MTSU to carry out an improvement plan with specific action steps that must be taken to address the critical deficiencies prior to a formal on-site review. TDOE proposes that an on-site review be facilitated in the Summer 2016 and a final recommendation presented to SBE in October 2016.

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:**

University of Tennessee Chattanooga  
Bethel University

**Approval with Stipulations:**

Middle Tennessee State University

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education, Division of Teachers and Leaders, recommends adoption of the attached recommendations on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.