
Professional Education Unit and Specialty Area Program Approvals

The Background:

The Department of Education is responsible for the review of Professional Education Units [the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) – e.g., Union University] and the Specialty Area Programs [the endorsement program – e.g., elementary education] offered by in-state educator preparation providers. Action recommendations made by the department must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Steps in the review process include:

- Report prepared by the EPP that responds to the national accreditation standards and specialty program standards;
- On-site review conducted by a State Board of Examiners (BOE) team; for national accreditation, CAEP Board of Examiners team also conducts a review;
- BOE on-site review report submitted to the unit;
- EPP response to the BOE on-site review report submitted to the department;
- Commissioner's Advisory Committee meets to consider recommendations;
- Advisory Committee recommendations submitted to the department;
- Department presents recommendations to the State Board of Education; and
- Continuing CAEP accreditation/state approval comprehensive review occurs on a seven-year cycle, which may include focused reviews during the interim period.

The department recommendations for Professional Education Units and Specialty Area Programs fall into one of three categories: Approval, Approval with Stipulations, or Denial of Approval. For units seeking CAEP accreditation, the accreditation status is reported.

Attached are action recommendations for Professional Education Units and Specialty Area Programs for the following educator preparation providers:

Joint CAEP/State Continuing Accreditation and Specialty Area Program
Comprehensive Review:

Milligan College

The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all standards. No critical deficiencies were cited. The provider was approved, along with 24 specialty area programs.

State-only Focused Review:

Bethel University

As a result of the November 10-13, 2013 State-only Board of Examiners visit, it was determined that Bethel University did not meet Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation and Standard 5: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation at the advanced level. In keeping with State Board of Education educator preparation program approval procedures a state-only visit was conducted April 19-21, 2015. As a result of this focused review, the team found that Bethel University met expectations in each of the identified

areas. However, the team noted some persisting weaknesses. The provider was approved, along with 12 specialty area programs.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

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