
Recommendations for Professional Education Units and Licensure Programs

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 K-5] 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;
- Department Advisory Committee on Educator Preparation assesses EPP and BOE documents and reports and makes recommendations to the department
- Department presents recommendations to the State Board of Education; and
- Continuing NCATE/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 Professional Education Units and Specialty Area Programs fall into one of five categories: Full Approval, Exemplary; Full Approval; Approval, Minor Stipulations; Probationary Approval, Major Stipulations; or Denial of Approval. For units seeking NCATE/CAEP accreditation, the accreditation status is reported.

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

Joint NCATE (CAEP)/State Focused Accreditation and Specialty Area Program Review

Middle Tennessee State University

The review team assessed progress made in correcting critical deficiencies cited during the last comprehensive review in NCATE Standard 1. The review team concluded that the unit meets expectations on NCATE Standard 1. No critical deficiencies were cited. All NCATE Unit Standards are met. The unit was fully accredited. The state review concluded that all specialty area programs have no critical deficiencies. The department recommends the specialty area programs have full approval.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. 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.