

**TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDER STATUS CHANGE  
AQUINAS COLLEGE  
FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

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 that for EPPs with full approval, minor stipulations status, the Department may recommend to the State Board removal of the minor stipulations for the remainder of the approval period of the EPP, if the EPP has adequately addressed the areas in need of improvement. 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 in which the EPP submits evidence to demonstrate progress is being made toward the action plan goals.

**Context**

On July 26, 2019, the State Board of Education took action regarding the approval status of the Aquinas College Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). The action was preceded by a state-managed comprehensive review process, which included a March 4-6, 2018 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 Aquinas College final report cited three minor stipulations across three of the five CAEP standards and one minor stipulation across all reviewed specialty area programs. Within three months of the SBE vote, Aquinas College worked with the Department to develop and implement an action plan focused on the following minor stipulations:

**STANDARD 2: Clinical Partnerships and Practice**

The provider ensures that effective partnerships and high-quality clinical practice are central to preparation so that candidates develop the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions necessary to demonstrate positive impact on all P-12 students' learning and development.

<b>Minor Stipulations</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
There is insufficient evidence that the EPP evaluates mentor teachers.	No formal evaluation of mentor teachers is conducted by the EPP.

**STANDARD 3: Candidate Quality, Recruitment, And Selectivity**

The provider ensures that effective partnerships and high-quality clinical practice are central to preparation so that candidates develop the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions necessary to demonstrate positive impact on all P-12 students' learning and development.

Minor Stipulations	Rationale
The recruitment plan lacks specificity particularly in identifying recruitment goals.	The recruitment plan did not establish recruitment goals foundational to the plan.

**STANDARD 4: Program Impact**

The provider demonstrates the impact of its completers on pre-K-12 student learning and development, classroom instruction and schools, and the satisfaction of its completers with the relevance and effectiveness of their preparation.

Minor Stipulations	Rationale
Evidence is limited to ensure all completers have an impact on P-12 student learning and development.	Due to the small number of completers, data to establish completers' impact on student learning and development are limited.

**Specialty Area Programs**

Minor Stipulations	Rationale
Evidence is limited to ensure all completers have an impact on P-12 student learning and development.	Due to the small number of completers, data to establish completers' impact on student learning and development are limited.

The following programs received a full approval, minor stipulations status:

- Elementary Education K-5 (UG and PB)
- English 6-12 (UG and PB)
- French 6-12 (PB)
- Spanish 6-12 (PB)
- German 6-12 (PB)
- Latin 6-12 (PB)
- Greek 6-12 (PB)
- Mathematics 6-12 (PB)
- Biology 6-12 (PB)
- Chemistry 6-12 (PB)
- Physics 6-12 (PB)
- Earth Science 6-12 (PB)
- History 6-12 (UG and PB)
- Government 6-12 (PB)
- Economics 6-12 (PB)
- Geography 6-12 (PB)
- Psychology 9-12 (PB)

**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 December 2019, 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 three minor stipulations at the provider level and the one minor stipulations for programs cited in the final report through its action plan. The outcome of the December 2019 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 June 2020.

In June 2020, the Department conducted the next progress review of the second set of evidence collected. The outcome of the June 2020 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 2019. 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.