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## Educator Preparation Providers and Specialty Area Program Approvals

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### The Background:

Attached are action recommendations for Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) and the Specialty Area Programs (SAPs) [SAPs are the endorsement program – e.g., Elementary Education K-5] for the following EPPs.

### Comprehensive Reviews of Existing EPPs and SAPs

The Department of Education is responsible for the review of EPPs and SAPs. National CAEP accreditation and state approval comprehensive reviews occur on a seven-year cycle. Action recommendations made by the Department must be approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to State Board rule 0520-02-04.

Steps in the review process include:

- Reports prepared by the EPP that responds to the CAEP national accreditation standards and state specialty program standards;
- On-site review conducted by a state-selected and trained on-site review team using the Tennessee Comprehensive Review handbook and, for EPPs seeking national accreditation, a nationally selected and trained CAEP on-site team;
- On-site review report submitted to the EPP;
- EPP response (rejoinder) to the on-site review report submitted to the Department of Education;
- Evaluation of all reviews by the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Educator Preparation (ACEP); and
- CAEP accreditation/state approval comprehensive reviews occurs on a seven-year cycle, which may include focused reviews during the interim period.

The Department of Education recommendations for existing EPPs and SAPS fall into one of five categories:

1. Full Approval: Exemplary Status,
2. Full Approval,
3. Full Approval: Minor Stipulations,
4. Probationary Approval: Major Stipulations, or
5. Denial of Approval.

For EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation, the initial accreditation status is translated to an EPP state approval recommendation by the Department and reviewed by the ACEP. CAEP advanced accreditation decisions are not considered in recommendations to the State Board as advanced-level programs are reviewed as SAPs and each receives a separate status recommendation.

## **Joint CAEP Accreditation and State Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Reviews**

### *Lipscomb University*

This joint CAEP/state review took place in spring of 2020. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. No critical deficiencies were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval and full approval for all specialty area programs.

### *Lincoln Memorial University*

This joint CAEP/state review took place in spring of 2020. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Two areas for improvement were identified; no critical deficiencies were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations and full approval for all specialty area programs.

### *Union University*

This joint CAEP/state review took place in spring of 2020. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Four areas for improvement were identified; no critical deficiencies were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations and full approval for all specialty area programs.

## **State-Managed EPP and Specialty Area Program Comprehensive Reviews**

### *Tennessee Wesleyan University*

This state-managed review took place in the spring of 2020. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Some minor stipulations were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations and full approval for all specialty area programs.

### *Cumberland University*

This state-managed review took place in the spring of 2020. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Some minor stipulations were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations and full approval for all specialty area programs.

### *King University*

This state-managed review took place in the spring of 2020. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on all CAEP standards. Some minor stipulations were cited. The provider is recommended for full approval, minor stipulations and full approval for all specialty area programs.

## **EPP Status Changes**

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 that progress is being made toward the action plan goals.

*Aquinas College*

Department reviewers reviewed the EPP action plan and subsequent evidence provided during annual progress monitoring reviews since 2018. The Department concluded that the EPP meets expectations in the areas in need of improvement and recommends removal of the minor stipulations. The provider is recommended for a status change to full approval.

**The Recommendation:**

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