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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 in accordance with State Board rules. 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 respond 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; and
- Evaluation of all reviews by the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Educator Preparation (ACEP);

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 existing EPPs and SAPs fall into one of five categories:

- Full Approval: Exemplary Status,
- Full Approval,
- Full Approval: Minor Stipulations,
- Probationary Approval: Major Stipulations, or
- 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**

### *Austin Peay State University*

This joint CAEP/state review took place in spring of 2021. 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, along with all specialty area programs.

### *Belmont University*

This joint CAEP/state review took place in spring of 2021. 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, minor stipulations. All reviewed specialty area programs are recommended for full approval.

### *LeMoyne-Owen College*

This joint CAEP/state review took place in spring of 2021. The review team concluded that the EPP meets expectations on CAEP standards 1-4 and does not meet expectations on CAEP standard 5. The provider is recommended for probationary approval, major stipulations. Multiple specialty area programs were reviewed, and the recommendations are as follows:

- Mathematics 6-12 and English Language Arts 6-12 – full approval
- Early Childhood Education pre-K-3, Elementary Education K-5 – full approval, minor stipulations
- Biology 6-12, Chemistry 6-12, History 6-12, Government 6-12, Visual Arts K-12, Special Education Interventionist K-8, Special Education Interventionist 6-12 – probationary approval, major stipulations

### *Welch College*

This state-managed review took place in spring of 2021. 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, minor stipulations. All reviewed specialty area programs are recommended for full approval.

## **New EPPs and SAPs Seeking Initial Approval**

In accordance with the Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04, after review of a proposal for initial approval of an EPP, the Department shall recommend to the State Board one of the following:

- a) Initial approval. If initial approval is awarded, providers may begin enrolling and subsequently recommending candidates for licensure in approved specialty areas; or
- b) Denial of initial approval. If initial approval is denied, providers may not recommend candidates for licensure or identify programs as leading to licensure. Providers may submit a revised proposal for consideration during the next review period.

### *Sumner County Schools*

The Department of Education reviewed the Sumner County proposal for a recommendation of initial approval as a new EPP and associated SAPs in occupational endorsements. The review considered key components of the State Board of Education Educator Preparation Rule 0520-02-04, Educator Preparation Policy 5.504, and Literacy and Specialty Area Standards Policy 5.505 related to initial EPP and SAP approval.

The Department review team concluded that Sumner County did not meet expectations on the initial EPP proposal and recommends denial of approval for the new EPP and applicable endorsements in occupational education. Sumner County is therefore recommended for denial of initial approval.

**The Recommendation:**

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