

**Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board
and
The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation**

STATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

In order to promote excellence in educator preparation by coordinating Kentucky state approval and national accreditation reviews of Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs), and to eliminate duplication of effort and reporting, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for CAEP accreditation in Kentucky.

CAEP became operational on July 1, 2013, replacing by merger two previous accreditation bodies, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). Prior to the formation of CAEP, Kentucky EPPs were required to obtain state accreditation to operate and had the option to seek national accreditation through NCATE. Beginning September 1, 2016, all Kentucky EPPs will be subject to both state and CAEP accreditation.

The Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) is an agency of Kentucky state government established in Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) 161.028, charged *inter alia* with regulating preparation and certification for educators employed by Kentucky public schools. EPSB functions relevant to this agreement are authorized by KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, KRS 161.032, KRS 161.042, KRS 161.048, KRS 161.049, KRS 164.097, KRS 164.2845, KRS 164.945, KRS 164.946, and KRS 164.947; and by regulations promulgated by the EPSB board to implement the relevant statutory authority.

I. Standards for National Accreditation of Educator Preparation Providers

- A. CAEP educator preparation provider standards must be met on the basis of sufficient and accurate evidence to merit national accreditation by CAEP. The CAEP Accreditation Standards will apply to initial preparation programs and the CAEP Standards for Advanced Preparation Programs will apply to advanced preparation programs. In Kentucky, an *advanced program* is any program that either (a) requires for admission that a candidate have previously been awarded a teaching certificate or (b) has been identified by the EPSB as a program resulting in certification for other school professionals.
- B. State standards adopted by the EPSB board, and institutional standards, will also be applied in the CAEP accreditation process. Board-adopted standards include:
- Kentucky Teacher Standards
 - Environmental Education Standards
 - Guidance Counseling Program Standards
 - IECE Standards
 - ISLLC Standards
 - Dispositions, Dimensions, and Functions for School Leaders
 - School Safety Standards

- School Social Work Standards
- TSSA Standards
- other standards that may be adopted by the EPSB board in the future.

Current Kentucky regulations and standards may not be consistent with CAEP educator preparation provider standards. CAEP agrees and understands that in the event of a conflict, EPSB will comply with current Kentucky regulations and standards, unless waived by majority vote of EPSB board members. Where conflicts occur between state and CAEP standards, the EPSB will pursue regulatory amendments to align state standards with CAEP standards.

II. Process of National Accreditation for Educator Preparation Providers

- A. The process required for national accreditation by CAEP is outlined in CAEP policies. EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation must:
 - satisfy eligibility requirements
 - submit a self-study in a CAEP-approved format for formative feedback through off-site review
 - facilitate the posting of a call for public comment in accordance with standards for posting of legal notice to the public
 - host a site visit
 - complete an approved program review process for all programs of study leading to certification for professional practice in a school setting.
- B. Terms of accreditation will be for seven (7) years. EPP accreditation status is subject to CAEP policies, including annual payment of dues and submission of an annual report as required.
- C. The Selected Improvement pathway will be used by Kentucky EPP's seeking accreditation under this agreement.
- D. An EPP must submit all initial and advanced programs for approval and seek accreditation.

III. Standards and Processes for Program Review

- A. The EPP will submit program reports following the instructions for the program review process.
- B. The EPSB has sole responsibility for program approval, and will use information generated from the Kentucky program approval process to make decisions about program approval.
- C. For purposes of state program approval, the EPSB recognizes State Review by State Authority:

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The state authority conducts program reviews for purposes of state approval and to inform CAEP accreditation. The state authority provides forms and instructions on how to meet all State Standards for certificate program approval. Upon completion of the state authority forms, trained reviewers are selected and assigned within appropriate content areas. Reviewers make recommendations for further action and/or approval. The state authority makes the final decision on approval of all programs.

The Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board shall be the sole State Authority for purposes of this agreement.

IV. Accreditation Review Team Composition

Joint Review Teams

Review teams will consist of a minimum of five members appointed by CAEP and the EPSB. A team will be led by co-chairs, one appointed by the EPSB, and one by CAEP. State-appointed members will number one fewer than CAEP-appointed members.

The following conditions apply to Site Review Teams

- All members of Site Visit Teams must have successfully completed CAEP Review Team Member training.
- An EPSB staff member will be a non-writing member of each Site Visit Team.
- A P-12 practitioner will be a member of each site visit team when feasible. The state will make recommendations for P-12 practitioners through the Online Volunteer Application (OVA) system.
- The state teachers' association(s) may appoint an observer for the onsite review at the associations' expense.
- The EPP will assume all expenses – including travel, lodging and meals –for CAEP-appointed and EPSB-appointed team members, as well as the site visit fee. Onsite team activities will be conducted according to CAEP Policy.
- The CAEP team report will be shared with the EPSB.
- The EPSB reserves the right to arrive at a separate decision, and write a separate report, should EPSB and CAEP members of the Site Visit Team disagree about the outcome of the review.
- To assure educator preparation providers and the public that CAEP reviews are impartial and objective, to avoid conflicts of interest, and to promote equity and high ethical standards in the accreditation system, Site Visit Team members will adhere to CAEP's Code of Conduct.

V. Other Terms and Conditions

- A.** CAEP will collaborate with the EPSB to plan, design and implement a range of training opportunities for reviewers. As part of this agreement, EPSB contact(s) may participate in all web trainings. The registration fee for one EPSB contact will

be waived for the CAEP Conference; however the state contact must assume other expenses. CAEP shall assume all expenses for one EPSB contact to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, with additional state staff welcome at their own expense, including a registration fee. Additional training events may be arranged, including events in the state, on a cost-recovery basis with arrangements negotiated according to CAEP's policies regarding fees and expenses for training.

- B. CAEP shall supply EPSB with copies of all pertinent accreditation and specialized program area approval documents and reports through access to the Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS); CAEP shall supply agency personnel with login information, passwords, and technical support.
- C. The EPSB shall provide to CAEP its policy leading to changes in state program approval status. The EPSB shall notify CAEP within 30 days of action taken when a CAEP-accredited educator preparation provider has had a change in state program approval status as a result of a decision by the EPSB board.
- D. Responses to the final reports by the EPP and/or the state authority will follow procedures and timelines established in CAEP policy.
- E. State EPPs that are seeking CAEP accreditation or hold CAEP accreditation status will pay annual CAEP dues.
- F. The EPSB shall pay an annual CAEP membership. Membership in CAEP advisory or decision-making bodies shall be solely within the purview of the EPSB.
- G. Final accreditation decisions will be posted on CAEP's website. CAEP shall send the Executive Director of the EPSB a letter with the official accreditation decision. Additionally, CAEP will provide written notice of all accreditation decisions to the U.S. Department of Education, the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agency, all accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education, and the public (via the CAEP website).
- H. The partnership agreement will be for an initial period of seven years (May 1, 2016 through April 31, 2023) and may be modified by mutual consent of the two parties during that time. The EPSB or CAEP may terminate and cancel this agreement at any time upon thirty (30) days written notice served by registered or certified mail.
- I. The EPSB shall work with associations that represent P-12 educators such as KEA, NEA, AFT, NBPTS, education preparation providers, and education administrators to establish credit toward continuing education units or professional development requirements at the local district level in return for the state's P-12 educators' professional contributions to the work of CAEP as visiting team members or program reviewers.
- J. The terms of this agreement have been reached by mutual consent and have been read and understood by the persons whose signatures appear below. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the plan as set forth herein.

- K. In the event that CAEP declines to accredit an EPSB-approved provider, EPSB may issue state accreditation.

Christopher Koch, President
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

Jimmy Adams, Executive Director
Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board

Anthony Strong, Chair
Kentucky Education Professional Standards
Board