

**North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board  
and  
The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation  
Partnership Agreement**

In order to promote excellence in educator preparation by coordinating 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 **North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB)** enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for NDESPB and CAEP accreditation and program review in North Dakota.

No individual, public or private education association, corporation or institution, including any institution of post-secondary education, shall offer an Educator Preparation Program for the education and training of professional educators to be licensed in North Dakota without first having procured the assent of the ESPB for offering of such a Program. See North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 15.1-13-08 and North Dakota Administrative Code 67.1.

**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.
- B. North Dakota state standards detailed in the "North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board Program Approval Standards" and the "North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board Manual for Educator Preparation Program Approval and Unit Review" and institutional standards also will be applied in the ESPB/CAEP accreditation process. The EPP must provide evidence demonstrating alignment to the appropriate state approved North Dakota Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium Model Core Teaching Standards (ND-InTASC). Current North Dakota regulations and standards may not be consistent with CAEP educator preparation provider standards. CAEP agrees and understands that in the event of a conflict, current North Dakota regulations and standards will be complied with by ESPB. The ESPB will pursue regulatory amendments with due diligence.
- C. The Education Standards and Practices Board formed the Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC) to assist it in reviewing program approval visitation results and in recommending the status of programs through the approval process. The PAAC is the working advisory committee that reviews team findings and makes recommendations on the status of programs to the ESPB. It also formulates and revises program approval standards through a participatory process within the profession, and establishes and implements procedures used by institutions of higher education and visiting teams in the program approval process. All standards and procedures developed by the PAAC are officially approved by the ESPB.

## **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, host a site visit, and complete an approved program review process for all programs of study leading to professional practice in a school setting.
- B. For EPP's seeking continuing accreditation, the terms of accreditation shall be for a maximum of seven (7) years. EPP accreditation status is subject to ESPB/CAEP policies, including annual payment of dues and submission of an annual report as required. EPPs seeking only ESPB accreditation will follow ESPB regulations governing ESPB accreditation process.
- C. An EPP must choose from one of three pathways for accreditation pathways offered by CAEP: Selected Improvement (SI), Inquiry Brief (IB), or Transformational Initiative (TI). An EPP will have the choice of pathway for each accreditation report submitted and may change its pathway after successful completion of an accreditation cycle. The EPP is responsible for communicating the desired pathway with CAEP and the NO ESPB teacher education advisor.

## **III. Standards and Processes for Specialized Professional Area Program Reviews (Endorsement Programs and Certificate Programs)**

- A. The educator preparation provider may choose from among any of the three program review options for specialized professional area programs listed in III (D) below that have been approved by ESPB in this partnership agreement. EPPs will submit program reports following the instructions for the selected program review process.
- B. ESPB has sole responsibility for initial program approval. ESPB will utilize information generated from the program review options to make decisions regarding the EPP's continuing specialized professional area program approval. Using information provided as part of the accreditation and program review process, ESPB makes the final decision on approval of all educator preparation programs.
- C. As evidence of quality, CAEP accepts the decisions of national accrediting organizations for specialized professional program areas that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Proper documentation of current accreditation must be presented by the EPP.
- D. For purposes of state program approval, ESPB recognizes the following program review options:
  - 1. **CAEP Program Review with National Recognition:**  
CAEP Program Review with National Recognition applies Specialized Professional Associations' (SPAs) standards in the SPA review process and

can result in National Recognition. ESPB will review the program review report and will make a decision on continued North Dakota approval.

**2. CAEP Program Review with Feedback:**

CAEP Program Review with Feedback provides information to educator preparation providers, states, and accreditation teams. ESPB will review the Feedback Report and will make a decision on continued North Dakota approval. The feedback option will be reviewed by trained CAEP reviewers. CAEP Program Review with Feedback will apply InTASC standards in the review process.

**3. North Dakota Review by ESPB:**

ESPB conducts program reviews for purposes of ND approval and to inform CAEP accreditation. ESPB provides forms and instructions on how to meet all State Standards for licensure/certificate program approval. Upon completion of the state authority forms, trained reviewers are selected and assigned within appropriate content areas. Reviewers make recommendations to the ND State Review Team for further action. After the ESPB/CAEP onsite visit, the State Team will prepare the final report and make a recommendation to the Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC) to ESPB. ESPB makes the final decision on approval of all programs. See

<http://www.nd.gov/espb/progapproval/1> for more information on the North Dakota Review Process.

EPPs will choose from among these review options for each license or certificate program (and may choose different options for different programs).

**V. Accreditation Review Team Composition**

Accreditation site visits will be conducted by joint review teams consisting of members appointed by CAEP and ESPB. The team is led by co-chairs (one appointed by ESPB and one by CAEP). CAEP-appointed members make up more than 50 percent of the team.

The following conditions apply all CAEP/ESPB Accreditation Review Teams:

- All members of review teams must have successfully completed CAEP review team member training or ESPB review team member training.
- A representative of the ESPB shall be the state consultant for each team.
- The ESPB team chair will coordinate responsibilities with the CAEP chair.
- ESPB and CAEP will make every effort to assign a P-12 practitioner as a member of each CAEP/ESPB review team.
- ND United association may appoint an observer for the onsite review at the associations' expense.
- Other observers may be present. Arrangements must be agreed upon in advance by the EPP, ESPB/CAEP team chairs, and the ESPB executive director. There must be no conflict of interest. Observers may not participate

in discussions and may, depending upon circumstances, be excluded from some team meetings at the discretion of the team chairs. The observer is responsible for all costs.

- The EPP will assume all expenses – including travel, lodging and meals -for CAEP and ESPB team members, as well as the periodic evaluation fee. Onsite team activities will be conducted according to CAEP Policy.
- The CAEP/ESPB team report will be shared with ESPB; North Dakota and CAEP will share data as needed.
- 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, the ESPB/CAEP Accreditation Review Team members will adhere to CAEP's Code of Conduct.

## **V. Other Terms and Conditions**

- A. CAEP will collaborate with ESPB to plan, design and implement a range of training opportunities for reviewers. As part of this agreement, all ESPB contact(s) may participate in all web trainings. The registration fee, for one ESPB contact will be waived for the CAEP Conference; however the ESPB contact must assume other expenses. CAEP will assume all expenses for one ESPB authority contact to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, with additional ESPB 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. ESPB will receive copies of all pertinent accreditation and specialized program area approval documents and reports through access to the Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS); agency personnel will be supplied with login information, passwords, and technical support.
- C. ESPB will provide to CAEP its policy leading to a "Change in State Status." ESPB will notify CAEP within 30 days of action taken when a CAEP accredited educator preparation provider has had a "Change in State Status" as a result of a decision on specialized professional program status by ESPB for educator preparation.
- D. Responses to the final reports by the EPP and/or ESPB 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. ESPB will be responsible for annual CAEP membership dues. Final accreditation decisions are posted on CAEP's website. CAEP sends the Executive Director of ESPB a letter with the official accreditation decision. Additionally, CAEP provides 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 Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and the public (via the CAEP website).

- G. The partnership agreement shall be for an initial period of seven years and may be modified by the two parties during that time, if deemed to be necessary. Either party may cancel the agreement at any time with no financial obligation other than the cost of the current annual CAEP state partnership membership dues to the organization that have been invoiced and paid separately from this agreement.
- H. ESPB will work with associations that represent P-12 educators (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.
- I. 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.

Christopher Koch, President  
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

Janet Welk, Executive Director  
ND Education Standards and Practices Board