

**Delaware Department of Education
And
The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
Partnership Agreement**

In order to promote excellence in educator preparation by coordinating Delaware state approval and national accreditation reviews of Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs), the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for CAEP accreditation in Delaware.

No individual, public or private educational association, corporation or institution, including any Institution of post-secondary education, shall offer an Educator Preparation Program for the training of educators to be licensed in Delaware without first having procured the assent of the DDOE for the offering of such a Program. See 14 Del. C. § 122(b)(22) & § 1280(a). The approval process for Educator Preparation Programs is detailed in 14 DE Admin. Code 290 Approval of Educator Preparation Programs (hereinafter "Regulation 290".) Institutions seeking to receive and maintain approval of Educator Preparation Programs in the State shall meet the requirements detailed in Regulation 290, which include meeting the Education Preparation Provider and Program Standards established by CAEP and the appropriate program standards established by any applicable Specialized Professional Association.

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. Delaware standards and institutional standards will also be applied in the CAEP accreditation process.

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 and distribution of third-party surveys to stakeholders, 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. An EPP must choose from one of three pathways for accreditation offered by CAEP: Continuous Improvement (CI), Inquiry Brief (IB), or Transformational Initiative (TI). An EPP will have the choice of pathway for each 7-year accreditation cycle 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 DDOE. Changes in an EPP's chosen pathway during an accreditation cycle require the EPP to consult with DDOE and CAEP.

- C. Terms of CAEP accreditation shall 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.

III. Standards and Processes for Program Review

- A. The educator preparation provider will use the program review process listed in III.C below. EPPs will submit program reports based on the instructions for the program review process.
- B. 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.
- C. For purposes of Delaware program approval, Delaware recognizes the following CAEP program review process:

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. The DDOE will review program review reports and will make a decision on continued Delaware approval. Full detail of the Program Review with National Recognition process is available in CAEP policies and on the CAEP and relevant SPA websites.

- D. CAEP will assist the DDOE with an interim review of an approved program, outside the seven-year CAEP cycle review, on an as-needed basis if deemed necessary by the DDOE to corroborate and augment the reporting information provided by an approved preparation program. An interim review will include CAEP analysis of CAEP annual reports and assessments. An interim review may also include CAEP analysis of other documents or reports collected by DDOE as part of the DDOE program approval process.
- E. CAEP will conduct a full Program review of an EPP at the behest of the DDOE due to changes in CAEP status, SPA approval status, or as deemed necessary as a result of significant deficiencies in EPP submissions to the DDOE as part of the Delaware EPP approval process.
- F. The DDOE has sole responsibility for Delaware EPP approval. The DDOE will utilize information generated from the interim or full program review as described in Section III- D and Section III- E above as part of the Delaware Educator Preparation Program approval process outlined in Delaware Regulation 290 to make decisions regarding Delaware program approval.
- G. Delaware may amend this agreement to include additional CAEP program review options as such options become available and meet the standards and requirements of Delaware approval.

IV. Accreditation Review Team Composition

The Accreditation Review Team is appointed by CAEP. All CAEP-appointed members must have successfully completed the CAEP visiting team members' training. The DDOE will designate up to three (3) members to serve on the Accreditation Review Team. Additional team members may be appointed to joint teams or concurrent teams in accordance with CAEP policies and the needs of the accreditation pathway.

The following conditions apply CAEP, Joint CAEP-Delaware Accreditation Review Teams, and to the CAEP Team that is part of a Concurrent Visit:

- All members of Review Teams must have successfully completed CAEP Review Team Member training.
- A P-12 practitioner shall be a member of each CAEP team.
- The EPP will assume all expenses-including travel, lodging and meals- for CAEP and Delaware team members, as well as the periodic evaluation fee. Onsite team activities will be conducted according to CAEP policy.
- The CAEP team report will be shared with the DDOE.
- 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, Accreditation Review Team members will adhere to CAEP's Code of Conduct.

V. Other Terms and Conditions

- A. CAEP will collaborate with the DDOE to plan, design and implement a range of training opportunities for reviewers. As part of this agreement, Delaware contact(s) may participate in all web trainings. The registration fee for one Delaware contact will be waived for the CAEP Conference; however the Delaware contact must assume other expenses. CAEP will assume all expenses for one Delaware contact to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, with additional Delaware staff welcome at their own expense, including a registration fee. Additional training events may be arranged, including events in Delaware, on a cost-recovery basis with arrangements negotiated according to CAEP's policies regarding fees and expenses for training.
- B. The DDOE 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. Any changes in accreditation status, including changes in SPA approval status, shall be reported to the DDOE within 30 days.
- C. The DDOE will provide to CAEP its policy leading to a change in Delaware approval status. The DDOE will notify CAEP within 30 days of action taken when a CAEP-accredited educator preparation provider has had a change in Delaware

approval status as a result of a decision by the DDOE.

- D. CAEP responses to the final reports by the EPP and/or the DDOE will follow procedures and timelines established in CAEP policy.
- E. Delaware EPPs that are seeking CAEP accreditation or hold CAEP accreditation status will pay annual CAEP dues.
- F. The DDOE will be responsible for annual DDOE CAEP membership dues.
- G. Final accreditation decisions are posted on CAEP's website. CAEP sends the Delaware Secretary of Education 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 Delaware 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).
- H. 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. This Agreement may be terminated in whole or in part by the DDOE for its convenience, but only after CAEP is given: 1) not less than 30 calendar days written notice of intent to terminate and 2) an opportunity for consultation with DDOE prior to termination.
- I. The DDOE will work with associations that represent P-12 educators, education preparation providers, and education administrators to establish credit toward continuing education units or professional development requirements at the local education agency level in return for the Delaware's P-12 educators' professional contributions to the work of CAEP as visiting team members or program reviewers. The DDOE reserves the right to revisit and amend this agreement as necessary based on research and evaluation of CAEP program review processes. CAEP shall make such information available to the DDOE as it becomes available.
- 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.

James G. Cibulka, President
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

Mark Murphy, Secretary of Education
Delaware