



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Louisiana Department of Education and

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

Partnership Agreement

In order to promote excellence in educator preparation by coordinating Louisiana 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 Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for CAEP accreditation in Louisiana in keeping with Bulletin 996: Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs.

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. Louisiana standards and institutional standards must 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. Terms of accreditation shall be for seven (7) years. Pre-accreditation status terms shall be for eight (8) years. EPP accreditation status is subject to CAEP policies, including annual payment of fees and submission of an annual report as required.

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III. Standards and Processes for Program Review

- A. The educator preparation provider may choose from among any of the program review options listed in III.D below that have been approved by LDOE in this partnership agreement. EPPs will submit program reports following the instructions for the selected program review process.
- B. The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has sole responsibility for final program approval. Louisiana will utilize information generated from the program review options to make decisions regarding state approval. Using information provided as part of the accreditation and program review process the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education makes the final decision on approval of all 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, the LDOE and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education recognize 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. The LDOE will review the program review report and will make a decision on continued Louisiana approval.

See: Websites of CAEP and of particular SPAs for more information.
 2. CAEP Program Review with Feedback:
CAEP Program Review with Feedback provides information to educator preparation providers, states, and accreditation teams. The LDOE will review the feedback report and will make a decision on continued Louisiana approval. Program clusters will be reviewed by trained CAEP reviewers. See: www.caepnet.org for more information.

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

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IV. Accreditation Review Team Composition

The Accreditation Review Team is appointed by CAEP according to the guidelines and policies for each selected accreditation pathway. If the Continuous Improvement Pathway (CI) or Transformation Initiative Pathway (TI) is selected, the state will have joint CAEP/LDOE review teams. For the Inquiry Brief Pathway (IB), CAEP will choose a trained team that includes a state representative and a local practitioner.

The following conditions apply to all teams:

- 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 Louisiana 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 and LDOE team members, as well as the periodic evaluation fee. Onsite team activities will be conducted according to CAEP policy.
- The CAEP team report will address state standards and be shared with the LDOE.
- 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 LDOE to plan, design and implement a range of training opportunities for reviewers. As part of this agreement, LDOE contact(s) may participate in all web trainings. The registration fee, for one LDOE contact will be waived for one annual CAEP Conference; however the Louisiana contact must assume other expenses. CAEP will assume all expenses for one LDOE contact to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, with additional Louisiana 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. The LDOE will receive copies of all pertinent accreditation and specialized program area approval documents and reports through access to the Accreditation Information

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Management System (AIMS); agency personnel will be supplied with login information, passwords, and technical support.

- C. The LDOE will provide to CAEP its policy leading to a "Change in Status." The LDOE will notify CAEP within 30 days of action taken when a CAEP accredited educator preparation provider has had a "Change in Status" as a result of a decision on specialized professional program status by the LDOE for educator preparation.
- D. Responses to the final reports by the EPP and/or the LDOE will follow procedures and timelines established in CAEP policy.
- E. Louisiana EPPs that are seeking CAEP accreditation or hold CAEP accreditation status will pay annual CAEP dues.
- F. The LDOE will be responsible for annual CAEP membership dues. Final accreditation decisions are posted on CAEP's website. CAEP sends the Executive Director of the LDOE a letter with the official accreditation decision. Additionally, CAEP provides written notice of all accreditation decisions to the U.S. Department of Education, the LDOE, 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 (December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2020) and may be modified by the two parties during that time, if deemed to be necessary.
- H. 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
Council or the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

Date:

John White, Superintendent
Louisiana Department of Education

Date:

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