

**AGREEMENT FOR CONDUCTING COLORADO EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM
APPROVAL and ACCREDITATION by the TEACHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION
COUNCIL**

Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE)
Colorado Department of Education (CDE)
Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC)

As a means for ensuring that all institutions of higher education in Colorado offering Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) and Colorado Department of Education (CDE) approved professional educator preparation programs at the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate and/or graduate level(s) are meeting state standards and performance criteria, as set forth in their rules (*C.R.S. §22-60.5 and C.R.S. §23-1-121*), programs must undergo an on-site review.

The on-site review for state approval will be conducted by DHE and CDE and may be undertaken as a joint visit in collaboration with TEAC. For those programs that opt to seek TEAC accreditation, this agreement outlines the requirements of a joint review and audit leading to Colorado program approval and to TEAC accreditation.

1. TEAC would require that *Inquiry Briefs* or *Inquiry Brief Proposals* from Colorado educator preparation programs include evidence that adequately supports the program's claim that it meets the *Performance-Based Standards for Colorado Teachers* and statutory performance criteria (*C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)*). The institution of higher education (IHE) is free to add other claims to their *Inquiry Brief*.
2. The DHE and CDE receive the *Inquiry Brief* and the parts of the *Audit Report* that pertain to the audit of the evidence for the program's meeting the *Performance-Based Standards for Colorado Teachers* and statutory performance criteria.
3. TEAC audits will incorporate information from the institution's program endorsement areas leading to licensure; this includes, but is not limited to, teacher education, counselor education, administration and supervision, and other professional educator preparation program options.
4. All educator preparation programs must follow state procedures for initial approval and reauthorization visits.

5. Colorado IHEs selecting TEAC will confirm the dates of each TEAC accreditation audit with the DHE and CDE before submitting dates to TEAC in order to facilitate scheduling of DHE and CDE staff for all accreditation audits. Continuing audits will be scheduled according to the state's timetable for accreditation, with TEAC reserving the right to schedule a visit to a TEAC-accredited institution if it deems a visit necessary. Each institution will notify TEAC and DHE and CDE of the contact person for the review.

6. Institutions selecting TEAC will pursue program accreditation according to TEAC'S accreditation categories, guidelines, and terms.

7. Programs will prepare a single *Inquiry Brief* or *Inquiry Brief Proposal* in the format specified by TEAC. The documents will include evidence that TEAC quality principles and standards for capacity have been met. The TEAC auditors will verify evidence that pertains to TEAC's quality principles and standards. The TEAC auditors will determine if the institution's *Inquiry Brief* or *Inquiry Brief Proposal* receives a clean, qualified, adverse, or disclaimer opinion based upon TEAC guidelines and submit an *Audit Report* to the institution. The TEAC Accreditation Committee makes the final decision regarding program accreditation. The TEAC decision will be non-binding for state approval and reauthorization purposes and DHE and CDE reviewers will make their own separate assessment of each institution's proficiency, partial proficiency or non-proficiency in regards to *Performance-Based Standards for Colorado Teachers* and other performance criteria outlined in C.R.S. §23-1-121(2).

8. Annual reports to TEAC will be in the format prescribed by TEAC.

9. Institutions may choose to be reviewed by TEAC and CDE/DHE at the same time. TEAC auditors will make up the TEAC audit team and be appointed according to TEAC guidelines. DHE and CDE reviewers will make up the state reauthorization team and be appointed according to DHE and CDE guidelines. One DHE and CDE representative may serve as a point-of-contact to TEAC as well as an audit team member during the TEAC audit. DHE and CDE representatives may be added to any TEAC audit team as observers and/or consultants. TEAC representatives may be added to any DHE/CDE team as observers and/or team members. In addition, the DHE and CDE representative may provide program and Colorado contextual information during the audit process. The TEAC auditors will verify the evidence used to support the claims made in the institution's *Inquiry Brief*. DHE/CDE representatives will verify the evidence used to support the claims made in the institution's *Colorado Institutional Report*. DHE and CDE representatives may attend the training of TEAC auditors and/or the training of the institution's staff, with no training expense charged to the DHE and CDE. The DHE and CDE will be responsible for the travel expenses of its representative(s) for such training.

10. The IHE shall cover expenses for the TEAC auditors according to TEAC guidelines, as well as those of DHE and CDE reviewers according to DHE and CDE guidelines.

11. This partnership agreement shall be for an initial period of five years (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014) and may be modified by the three parties during that time, if deemed to be necessary. The intention of this agreement is to have an ongoing partnership with TEAC.

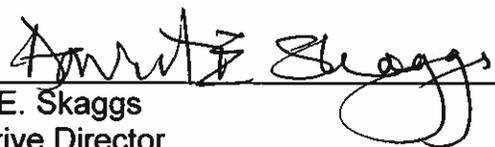
12. The terms of this agreement have been reached by mutual consent and have been read and understood by the persons whose signatures appear below. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the plan as set forth herein.



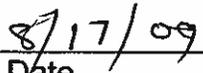
Frank B. Murray
President, Teacher Education Accreditation Council



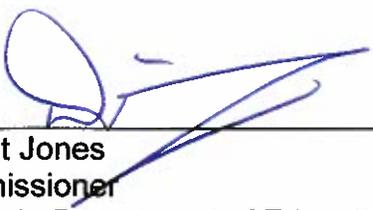
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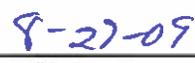
David E. Skaggs
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Higher Education



Date



Dwight Jones
Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education



Date