

**TOPIC:                   APPROVAL OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY  
EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX**

**PREPARED BY:    IAN MACGILLIVRAY**

**I.       SUMMARY**

This action item is for initial approval of a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BSED) at the University of Phoenix. Note that this program was approved by the State Board of Education more than one year ago. During the University of Phoenix's recent reapproval site visit (November 18-19, 2008), Dr. Ian Macgillivray discovered that CCHE did not receive the original recommendation of approval from CDE. This program is being recommended for initial approval as a new program and, thus, will not be subject to the recent reapproval site visit.

**II.      BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education determines approval of all teacher preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education in the state, upon receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for reviewing and approving proposed teacher preparation programs is as follows: the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the proposed programs to ensure that the content of each program is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a teacher candidate to meet the requirements for teacher licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. 22-60.5). The CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, the DHE reviews the program proposals for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; screening and counseling of teacher candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field-based training; supervised field-based experience (at least 800 hours); and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base (C.R.S. 23-1-121(2)). In the case of private institutions, the DHE will review the proposal only for supervised field based experience (C.R.S. 23-1-121(5)).

**III.     STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL**

At its meeting on August 9, 2007, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education program submitted by the University of Phoenix. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department on November 24, 2008 (see attached letter).

**IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW**

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121(5), the department staff has confirmed that the program meets the criterion of a minimum of eight hundred hours of supervised field-based experience.

**V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**DHE staff recommends approval of the program.**

**VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the letter of approval from the State Board of Education are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

22-60.5 C.R.S.  
23-1-121 C.R.S.