

**TOPIC: APPROVAL OF MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM
AT WESTERN STATE COLLEGE**

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I. SUMMARY

This action item requests initial approval of a Master of Arts in Education program at Western State College. This proposed master's program will lead to initial educator licensure in the following endorsement areas: Elementary, Secondary and K-12 Education; Special Education Generalist; Linguistically Diverse Education; Reading Teacher or Specialist; and Principal.

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 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 July 10, 2009, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the program proposal. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the department staff have confirmed that the program proposal meets all performance measures.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approves the Master of Arts in Education program at Western State College.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

VII. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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