

TOPIC: REAUTHORIZATION OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO - BOULDER

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I. SUMMARY

This agenda item requests reauthorization of the teacher preparation programs at the University of Colorado - Boulder.

II. BACKGROUND

The teacher preparation programs at the University of Colorado - Boulder (CU-Boulder) were reviewed for reauthorization March 3-5, 2009. In addition to four representatives from the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the state review team included the Director of Human Resources from Cherry Creek Schools, the Principal of Merino Elementary School and the Superintendent of Buffalo School District RE-4J.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-121, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) determines reauthorization of all teacher preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education in the state, conditioned on a positive recommendation from the State Board of Education. Institutions of higher education with approved teacher preparation programs must be evaluated not more frequently than once every five years. The process is as follows: The institution of higher education submits an institutional report to both the CDE and the DHE. The CDE conducts a review of all the programs within the teacher education unit 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 DHE reviews the teacher education unit's programs for the following statutory performance measures: admission system; advising 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). The site visit consists of an entrance interview, unit and program review (described above), and an exit interview. The CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which makes a recommendation to the DHE. DHE policy permits three possible outcomes of a review: a) full approval; b) probation; or c) termination of the program.

III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

At its June 3, 2010 meeting, the State Board of Education approved the content of CU-Boulder's teacher preparation programs. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121.4, the Department confirmed that CU-Boulder's teacher preparation programs meet all statutory performance measures.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission reauthorize the teacher preparation programs at University of Colorado - Boulder.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and the final report from the on-site review team are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

VII. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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