

TOPIC: RECOMMEND REAUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION UNIT AT UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends reauthorization of the educator preparation unit and educator preparation programs at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121 the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) considers reauthorization of all educator preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education, after receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for reauthorization of educator preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the endorsement programs to ensure that the content is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a candidate to meet the requirements for licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. §22-60.5). Department of Higher Education (DHE) reviews the unit and its programs for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; ongoing advising and screening of educator candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field based training; supervised field based experience; and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base [C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)]. DHE and CDE then jointly conduct an on-site visit of the unit and its educator preparation programs. CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to DHE. Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, DHE makes a recommendation to CCHE.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

At its meeting on February 18, 2015, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the educator preparation programs at University of Colorado Colorado Springs. CDE staff transmitted State Board of Education's approval of the following endorsement programs:

- Principal (3.03)
- Administrator (3.04)
- Early Childhood Education (8.01)
- Elementary Education (8.02)
- English Language Arts (8.09)
- Foreign Language (Spanish) (8.10)
- Mathematics (8.14)
- Science (8.17)
- Social Studies (8.18)
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (8.22)
- Gifted Talented Specialist (9.05)
- Special Education Generalist (9.06)
- Early Childhood Special Education (9.08)
- Reading Teacher (10.03)

- Reading Specialist (10.04)
- Director of Special Education (10.05)
- School Counselor (11.09)

During the on-site evaluation visit, the reauthorization team noted several strengths and provided recommendations for the educator preparation program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Specifically, the team noted that the programs at UCCS were very strong at providing effective field placement opportunities for students and developing multiple avenues for educator preparation (both internal and external to the College of Education) throughout the university – including the modified UTeach curriculum for STEM teacher candidates and the existing Bachelor’s of Innovation program. Specific recommendations for the program included: modifying existing advising structures to provide student support throughout the educator preparation program and developing and utilizing data from current and recently graduated students to ensure program quality and made modifications to existing programs.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the reauthorization of the educator preparation unit and educator preparation programs at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§23-1-121 C.R.S.: (4) (a) (I) The department, in conjunction with the department of education, shall review each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4) and shall establish a schedule for review of each educator preparation program that ensures each program is reviewed as provided in this section not more frequently than once every five years.