

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO OFFER ADMINISTRATOR ENDORSEMENT AT ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval to offer Administrator Endorsement (3.04) at Adams State University.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121 the Colorado Commission on Higher Education considers approval 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 initial approval of new educator preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the endorsement program to ensure that its 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). CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to the department. Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, the department reviews the proposed program for the following statutory performance criteria: a comprehensive admission system; ongoing advising and screening of 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)].

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of Adams State University's Administrator Endorsement program at its February 12, 2014 meeting. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

This program supports the development of existing principals and administrators to progress towards the Colorado Department of Education requirements for an initial Administrator (superintendent) license. Coursework is aligned to provide theoretical and practical training for current administrators wishing to become superintendents as well as preparation for the PLACE exam. Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121(2), department staff reviewed the proposal and confirmed

it meets the statutory performance criteria. The following is summarized from Adams State University's proposal:

1. **Comprehensive admission system:** Prior to admission, candidates possess an advanced graduate degree, a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in previously completed coursework and are currently serving as an active principal or superintendent. Special efforts to recruit diverse pools of candidates have been made.
2. **Ongoing screening and advising:** Faculty members and placement staff will provide initial and continual advisement for candidates throughout the program. The division of advising responsibilities for applicants and those admitted to the program provides efficient and effective advising for all potential and enrolled students.
3. **Course work and field-based training:** This program combines two classroom experiences with two fieldwork placements. The academic content developed within the classroom include: recent movements regarding educator assessment, linkage of educational stakeholder accountability and responsibility in a K12 environment, educational law, fiscal management and accountability and business ethics.
4. **Candidate skills and content knowledge:** Numerous assessments are included within the program's coursework and experiential processes. These assessments include academic paper development, expanded discussions and observations and candidate reflections on contemporary educational issues and individual performance.
5. **Continual improvement:** Metrics to measure program effectiveness include successful passing of course work, the passage rates of the normative PLACE exam and the employment rate for matriculated students upon program completion. Department staff will continue to work with the faculty and staff at Adams State University to suggest and implement programmatic changes to enhance employment rates and PLACE passage rates if necessary.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Administrator (3.04) endorsement program at Adams State University.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-121-Commission directive - approval of educator preparation programs – review
(2) The commission shall adopt policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in cooperation with the state board of education in developing the requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the requirements shall ensure that each educator preparation program

complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based model, and includes:

(a) A comprehensive admission system that includes screening of a candidate's dispositions for the field in which he or she is seeking licensure, consideration of a candidate's academic preparation for entry into his or her desired endorsement area or areas, and preadmission advising for students who are considering becoming candidates. The department shall work in collaboration with the programs to define any dispositions considered to be appropriate for educators.

(b) Ongoing advising and screening of candidates by practicing educators or faculty members;

(c) Course work and field-based training that integrates theory and practice and educates candidates in the methodologies, practices, and procedures of standards-based education, as described in parts 4 and 10 of article 7 of title 22, C.R.S., and specifically in teaching to the state academic standards adopted pursuant to section 22-7-406, C.R.S., or, beginning December 15, 2012, teaching to the state preschool through elementary and secondary education standards adopted pursuant to section 22-7-1005, C.R.S.;

(d) A requirement that, during the course of the preparation program, each teacher candidate in an initial licensure program complete a minimum of eight hundred hours, each principal and administrator candidate complete a minimum of three hundred hours, and each other advanced degree or add-on endorsement candidate complete appropriate supervised field-based experience that relates to predetermined learning standards and includes best practices and national norms related to the candidate's endorsement;

(e) A requirement that each candidate, prior to graduation, must demonstrate the skills required for licensure, as specified by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section 22-2-109 (3), C.R.S., in the manner specified by rule of the state board;

(f) Comprehensive, ongoing assessment including evaluation of each candidate's subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to demonstrate skill in applying the professional knowledge base.