

TOPIC: RECOMMEND REAUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION UNIT AT DENVER SEMINARY

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends reauthorization of the educator preparation unit and educator preparation program at Denver Seminary, based on a successful reauthorization visit and review of its programs by Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) staff, completed June 17, 2015.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121 the Commission 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:

- 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).
- CDHE 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)].
- CDHE 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 CDHE.
- Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, CDHE makes a recommendation to the Commission.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

During the on-site reauthorization visit, June 17, 2015, the reauthorization team noted several strengths and provided recommendations for the educator preparation program at Denver Seminary. Specifically, the team noted that the program at Denver Seminary is exemplary in its approach and implementation of processes related to student advising. Specific recommendations for the program included ensuring that all students completing the program are

aware of, and able to, implement Colorado-specific initiatives related to post-secondary workforce readiness and reducing the achievement gap for diverse student populations.

At its meeting on August 12, 2015, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the educator preparation program at Denver Seminary. CDE staff transmitted State Board of Education's approval of the following endorsement programs:

- School Counselor (11.09)

Given that the State Board of Education has approved the content of the educator preparation programs, the reauthorization team recommends the programs be reauthorized.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Commission reauthorize the educator preparation unit and educator preparation program at Denver Seminary.

V. 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.