

**TOPIC: RECOMMEND REAUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION UNIT AT METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER**

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## **I. SUMMARY**

This item recommends reauthorization of the educator preparation unit and educator preparation programs at Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSUD), based on a successful reauthorization visit and review of its programs by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) staff, completed February 22-24, 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, February 22-24, 2015, the reauthorization team noted several strengths and provided recommendations for the educator preparation program at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Specifically, the team noted that the program at

MSUD demonstrates exemplary practices in regards to fieldwork experiences and student teaching. The leveraging of mutually-beneficial relationships with local school districts results in highly beneficial experiences for students enrolled in MSUD's educator preparation program. Specific recommendations for the program included: incorporating processes related to continual improvement and capturing essential data related to student experiences and outcomes to help identify areas of improvement.

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

- Early Childhood Education (8.01)
- Elementary Education (8.02)
- Art (8.04)
- English Language Arts (8.09)
- Mathematics (8.14)
- Music (8.15)
- Physical Education (8.16)
- Science (8.17)
- Social Studies (8.18)
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education (8.22)
- Special Education Generalist (9.06)
- School Nurse (11.05)
- Social Worker, School (11.07)

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 Metropolitan State University of Denver.**

#### **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.