Arizona State Board of Education (ASBE),
Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and the
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

Partnership Agreement

In order to promote excellence in educator preparation by coordinating Arizona state approval and CAEP national accreditation reviews of Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs), and to eliminate duplication of effort and reporting, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the Arizona State Board of Education (ASBE), and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for CAEP accreditation in Arizona.

I. Standards for National Accreditation of Educator Preparation Providers

a. CAEP educator preparation provider standards must be met on the basis of sufficient and accurate evidence to merit national accreditation by CAEP.

b. Arizona Educator Preparation Program rules (R7-2-604, R7-2-604.01, R7-2-604.02, R7-2-604.03 and R7-2-604.04) play a central role in the process ASBE and ADE use for awarding state approval.

II. Process of National Accreditation for Educator Preparation Providers

a. The process required for national accreditation by CAEP is outlined in the CAEP and Accreditation Council policies. EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation must satisfy eligibility requirements, submit a self-study report in a CAEP-approved format for formative feedback through off-site review, facilitate the posting of a call for public comment and distribution of third-party surveys to stakeholders, host a joint Accreditation Review Team site visit, and complete an approved program review process for all programs of study leading to professional practice in an accredited school setting.

b. Terms of accreditation shall be for seven (7) years. EPP accreditation status is subject to CAEP policies, including the annual payment of CAEP fees and submission of an annual report as required. State approval may also require compliance with state policies, including those included in section I. b. above.

III. Standards and Processes for Program Review
a. The EPP may choose from among any of the three program review options listed in Section III(e) below that have been approved by the ASBE upon recommendation of the ADE. Under this partnership agreement, EPPs will submit a self-study report following the instructions for the selected program review process, including disaggregated data by content area.

b. The SBE is authorized to approve all programs and make the final decision by using information provided as part of the accreditation and program review process and recommendation from the ADE.

c. As evidence of quality, CAEP accepts the decisions of national accrediting organizations for specialized professional program areas that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Proper documentation of current accreditation must be presented by the EPP.

d. EPPs will choose from among the program review options listed in III (e) for each certification/endorsement area and may choose different options for different certifications/endorsements, e.g., Educational Leadership; Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Teaching Intern, etc.

e. For purposes of the ASBE program approval, the ASBE and the ADE recognize the following program review options:

   i. **CAEP Program Review with National Recognition:** CAEP Program Review with National Recognition applies Specialized Professional Associations (SPA) standards in the review process and can result in national recognition. The ADE's staff, on behalf of the ASBE, will examine the program review report and will provide a recommendation to the ASBE for the final decision on Arizona approval.

   ii. **CAEP Program Review with Feedback:** CAEP Program Review with Feedback, based on disaggregated data reported in the Self-Study report, provides information to EPPs, the ADE, states, and accreditation teams.

   iii. **Arizona Program Review by the SBE:** The ADE conducts program reviews for purposes of making recommendations to the ASBE consistent with the provisions of Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-604, R7-2-604.01, R7-2-604.02, R7-2-604.03 and R7-2-604.04. The ADE provides procedures, forms, and instructions on the program review process that leads to final program approval by the ASBE.
IV. Accreditation Review Team Composition: The Accreditation Review Team is appointed by CAEP, in consultation with the ASBE and ADE, according to the guidelines and policies for each selected accreditation pathway on options III (e)(i) and (ii). The ADE and CAEP will conduct a joint Accreditation Review Team site review. The following conditions apply to all teams:

a. All members of review teams must have successfully completed CAEP Accreditation Review Team member training.

b. A P-12 practitioner shall be a member of each Accreditation Review Team, if possible.

c. The Arizona Education Association (AEA) may appoint an observer for the Accreditation Review Team site visit review at AEA's expense.

d. The EPP will assume all expenses - including travel, lodging and meals, and the periodic evaluation fee - for Accreditation Review Team members. Accreditation Review Team activities will be conducted according to the CAEP and Accreditation Council policies and the ASBE protocols.

e. The ADE will assume all expenses – including travel, lodging and meals – for the state consultant and other ADE support staff to facilitate the Accreditation Review Team site review.

f. The Accreditation Review Team operates as a single team with shared responsibilities and equal roles in all aspects of the review, CAEP-appointed members make up more than 50 percent of the team. The team is led by a chair appointed by CAEP. The ADE may appoint a vice-chair.

g. The Accreditation Review Team report will be shared with the ASBE and the ADE.

h. To assure EPPs and the public that Accreditation Review Team site reviews are impartial and objective, to avoid conflicts of interest, and to promote equity and high ethical standards in the accreditation system, Accreditation Review Team members will adhere to the CAEP’s Code of Conduct.

V. Other Terms and Conditions

a. CAEP will collaborate with the ADE to plan, design and implement a range of training opportunities for reviewers. As part of this agreement, the ADE and the ADE staff may participate in all trainings. The registration fee for
one ADE staff member will be waived for one annual CAEP Conference; however the ADE staff member must assume all other expenses. CAEP will assume all expenses for one ADE staff member to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, including a registration fee. Additional ADE staff are welcome to register and attend at their own expense. Additional training events may be arranged, including events in the state, on a cost-recovery basis with arrangements negotiated according to the CAEP and Accreditation Council policies regarding fees and expenses for training.

b. The ASBE and ADE will receive copies of all pertinent accreditation and specialized program area approval documents and reports through access to the Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS); the ASBE and ADE staff will be supplied with login information, passwords and technical support.

c. The ADE will notify CAEP of a "Change in Status" within 30 days of action taken by the ASBE, or a CAEP-accredited EPP.

d. Arizona EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation or holding CAEP accreditation status will pay annual CAEP dues.

e. The ADE is responsible for its annual CAEP membership dues. Final accreditation decisions are posted on the three websites: CAEP, ADE, and ASBE. CAEP sends a letter with the official accreditation decision to the ASBE and ADE. Additionally, CAEP provides written notice of all accreditation decisions to the U.S. Department of Education, all accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and the public (via the websites).

f. The partnership agreement shall be for an initial period of six years from execution of the agreement, and may be modified upon the agreement of all three parties, if deemed to be necessary.

g. The terms of this agreement have been reached by mutual consent and have been read and understood by the persons whose signatures appear below. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the plan as set forth herein.
By signing this agreement, the undersigned agrees to be bound by the terms outlined above, and affirms that he or she has the authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the state.

________________________________________  _______________
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation  Date

________________________________________  _______________
Arizona State Board of Education  Date

________________________________________  _______________
Arizona Department of Education  Date