

CAEP STATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Professional Educator Standards Board
and
The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
Partnership Agreement

To promote excellence in educator preparation by coordinating state approval and national accreditation reviews of Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs), and to eliminate duplication of effort and reporting, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for CAEP accreditation in Washington state.

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. State standards and institutional standards also may be applied in the CAEP accreditation process.

II. Process of National Accreditation for Educator Preparation Providers

- A. The process required for national accreditation by CAEP is outlined in CAEP Policies. EPPs seeking CAEP Accreditation must satisfy eligibility requirements, submit a self-study 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 site visit, and complete an approved program review process for all programs of study leading to professional practice in a school setting.
- B. Terms of accreditation shall be for seven (7) years. Pre-accreditation status terms shall be for five (5) years. EPP accreditation status is subject to CAEP policies, including annual payment of dues and submission of an annual report as required.

III. Standards and Processes for Program Review

- A. The educator preparation provider will be reviewed by the state program review option listed in 111.0 below.
- B. The state authority has sole responsibility for program approval. The PESB will utilize information generated from the state site review to make decisions regarding State program approval.
- 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. For purposes of state program approval, the state authority recognizes the following program review option:

State Review Conducted by the PESB:

The state authority conducts program reviews for purposes of state approval and to inform CAEP accreditation. Each year, the Board will review each endorsement programs' WEST-E/NES and edTPA scores. Based on these two indicators, the Board may request a self-study from an endorsement program. A self-study is not an automatic outcome of a certain collection of scores. The Board may exercise discretion in the review of the scores. The Board may also use this data to recognize high-performing endorsement programs. The PESB staff will present this information to the Board members in a yearly report. The Board may grant a program's endorsement (a) approval or (b) at risk. The Board has the option to (c) disapprove a program's endorsement if it has been at risk for two consecutive years. The state authority makes the final decision on approval of all programs. See <http://program.pesb.wa.gov/endorsements> for more information on the State Review Process.

IV. Accreditation Review Team Composition

Concurrent Teams

State and CAEP teams operate independently, but conduct their visits at the same time. The state team reviews and makes decisions about state standards; the CAEP team reviews and makes decisions about CAEP standards. CAEP team members must have successfully completed CAEP visiting team members' training.

The following conditions apply to both All-CAEP and Joint CAEP-STATE Accreditation Review Teams and to the CAEP Team that is part of a Concurrent Visit:

1. All members of Review Teams must have successfully completed CAEP Site Visitor training.
2. A P-12 practitioner shall be a member of each site visit team.
3. The state teachers' association(s) may appoint an observer for the onsite review at the associations' expense.
4. The EPP will assume all expenses-including travel, lodging and meals-for CAEP team members as well as the periodic evaluation fee. Onsiteteam activities will be conducted according to CAEP Policy.
5. The CAEP site visit report will be shared with the state partnership member.
6. To assure educator preparation providers and the public that CAEP reviews are impartial and objective, to avoid conflicts of interest, and to promote equity and high ethical standards in the accreditation system, all site visitors will adhere to CAEP's Code of Conduct.

V. Other terms and Conditions

- A. CAEP will collaborate with the state authority to plan, design and implement a range of training opportunities for reviewers. As part of this agreement, state representatives may participate in all web training, on-site conferences and training for no registration fee, but must assume other expenses. CAEP will assume all expenses for one state authority representative to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, with additional welcome 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 CAEP's policies regarding fees and expenses for training.
- B. The state authority will receive copies of all pertinent accreditation and specialized program area approval documents and reports through access to the Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS); agency personnel will be supplied with login information, passwords, and technical support.
- C. The state authority will notify CAEP within thirty days of action taken when a CAEP accredited educator preparation provider has had a "Change in State Status" as a result of a decision on specialized professional program status by the state authority for educator preparation or for other reasons pertaining to state policy or regulation.
- D. Responses to the final reports by the EPP and/or the state authority will follow procedures and timelines established in CAEP policy.
- E. State EPPs that are seeking CAEP accreditation or hold CAEP accreditation status will pay annual CAEP dues.
- F. Final accreditation decisions are posted on CAEP's website. CAEP sends the Executive Director of the STATE AUTHORITY a letter with the official accreditation decision. Additionally, CAEP provides written notice of all accreditation decisions to the U.S. Department of Education, the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agency, all accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the public (via the CAEP website).
- G. The partnership agreement shall be for an initial period of five years (2015 through 2020) and may be modified by the two parties during that time, if deemed to be necessary.
- H. The state will establish credit toward continuing education units in return for the state's P-12 educators professional contributions to the work of CAEP as visiting team members or program reviewers.
- I. 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.

James G. Cibulka, President
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

Jennifer Wallace, Executive Director
Professional Educator Standards Board