

FOR CAEP STATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Tennessee Department of Education and The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation Partnership Agreement

Whereas, CAEP is a non-governmental, voluntary association committed to the effective preparation of teachers and other P-12 professional educators; and

Whereas, CAEP, through an autonomous Accreditation Council, accredits educator preparation providers (EPPs) and advances excellent educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning; and

Whereas, CAEP is a nationally recognized accreditor, having earned recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and may seek recognition by the United States Secretary of Education, and, therefore, develops policy and procedures aligned with all applicable requirements of CHEA and the U.S. Department of Education (USDEd);

Whereas, the State Board of Education (SBE) has the sole responsibility for approving EPPs in Tennessee; and

Whereas, CAEP accreditation may be used in lieu of the state approval process, yet the status of accreditation does not guarantee state approval;

CAEP and Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) (the Parties) hereby enter into this agreement detailing the TDOE's preferences with regard to Specialty Area Program reviews, review team composition for accreditation site reviews conducted by CAEP of EPPs operating within the state, and establishing the primary responsibilities each party has in supporting CAEP accreditation activities involving all such EPPs.

1. CAEP Standards and Scope of Accreditation

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 1.1. The CAEP Board of Directors (CAEP Board or Board) and the SBE have adopted standards (CAEP Standards or Standards) that serve as the basis for all EPP accreditation and state approval reviews undertaken by CAEP. The CAEP Standards reflect the voice of the education field – on what makes a quality educator. The Standards and their components flow from two principles:
 - 1.1.1. There must be solid evidence that the education preparation provider's graduates are competent and caring educators, and
 - 1.1.2. There must be solid evidence that the education preparation provider's educator staff have the capacity to create a culture of evidence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer.

- 1.2. As a result of the ongoing critical self-review that CAEP undertakes to maintain and improve the quality of CAEP accreditation, the CAEP Board will undertake a comprehensive review and revision of the CAEP Standards on a schedule set by the Board and may, as needed, make interim amendments to the Standards. In making any such changes, CAEP will seek stakeholder and public input, including input from the TDOE and its EPPs. It is the responsibility of the TDOE and any EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation to stay informed of any changes made to the CAEP Standards.
- 1.3. The CAEP scope of accreditation, defined in Accreditation Council policy, provides for the review of Initial Licensure Programs and Advanced Level Programs.
 - 1.3.1 Initial Licensure Programs are programs at the baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate level leading to initial licensure, certification, or endorsement, and that are designed to develop P-12 teachers.
 - 1.3.2 Advanced Level Programs are programs at the post-baccalaureate or graduate level leading to licensure, certification, or endorsement. These programs are designed to develop P-12 teachers who have already completed an initial preparation program, currently licensed administrators, other certificated (or similar SBE or TDOE language) school professionals for employment in P-12 schools/districts.

2. CAEP's Responsibility for Education Preparation Provider (EPP) Accreditation

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 2.1. CAEP, through the Accreditation Council, has sole responsibility for granting CAEP Accreditation to an EPP, and for supporting and overseeing NCATE- accredited EPPs through continuous accreditation and the CAEP Eligibility processes described below.
- 2.2. The process required for national accreditation by CAEP is outlined in the policies and procedures of CAEP and the Accreditation Council, both of which may be revised from time to time. It is the responsibility of the TDOE and any EPP seeking CAEP accreditation to stay informed of any such changes as they may impact the CAEP accreditation process from the time of their adoption or publication.

3. State's Responsibility for Specialty Area Program (SAP) Approval

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 3.1. The SBE has the responsibility for SAP approval decisions. In recommending SAP approval decisions to the SBE, the TDOE will utilize information generated from CAEP's review of an EPP, including but not limited to an Accreditation Council decision on CAEP Accreditation and the assignment of any Areas for Improvement (AFIs) and Stipulations, as described in Accreditation Council policy. Although the TDOE may elect to have state-specific standards and/or requirements incorporated into the CAEP review, consistent with the SAP reviews described below, information gathered on these standards and requirements is to be used only for purposes of determining state approval. An EPP's attainment of or failure to attain any non-CAEP standards will have no bearing on CAEP accreditation.

3.2. The TDOE will periodically review its program review requirements against the CAEP Standards and policies and will, in a timely manner, make CAEP aware of any conflicts or potential inconsistencies so that all parties to this agreement are aware of any such issues and can work constructively together to minimize any challenges that may arise from them.

4. Transition from NCATE Accreditation to CAEP Accreditation

The Parties understand and agree that:

4.1. Beginning January 1, 2017, CAEP ceased operation of NCATE and all subsequent EPP reviews conducted in the state will use the CAEP Standards, policy, and handbook, and carried out using the uniform CAEP accreditation process.

4.2. With the exception of the EPPs identified in Section 4.2.1, EPPs holding NCATE accreditation and meeting CAEP's requirements for continuous accreditation will not be required to meet CAEP Standards until the expiration of their current term of accreditation. All such EPPs are subject to the transition provisions described in Sections 4.2.2 to 4.2.3, below, and further defined in Accreditation Council policy.

4.2.1 The EPPs listed below that are currently accredited by NCATE will be afforded a one-year site visit extension and of its existing accreditation status:

- Carson-Newman University, from fall 2018 to fall 2019
- Lipscomb University, from spring 2019 to spring 2020

4.2.2 Annual Reports: All NCATE- accredited EPPs are required to submit annual reports through the duration of their current term using the CAEP annual report template provided in the Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS).

4.2.3 Good Standing: An NCATE- accredited EPP in good standing is considered to be continuously accredited. Upon expiration of the EPP's NCATE term of accreditation, the EPP's next accreditation review must be based on CAEP standards, policy, and handbook, and carried out using the uniform CAEP accreditation process. Any such EPP is not required to complete the CAEP application process so long as continuous accreditation is maintained.

5. CAEP Accreditation Cycle

The Parties understand and agree that:

5.1. The CAEP accreditation cycle involves an EPP in continuous improvement and requires an EPP to demonstrate that it meets the high standards of quality required to improve P-12 student learning.

5.2. To merit full accreditation by CAEP, an EPP must meet all CAEP Standards on the basis of sufficient and accurate evidence. For any EPP that fails to meet two or more CAEP standards, the TDOE will recommend denial of approval of the EPP to the SBE. Any decision to revoke or deny CAEP accreditation will be made pursuant to CAEP Accreditation Council policy.

5.3 An EPP seeking CAEP accreditation, either as an initial applicant or through a renewal process (generally referred to as continuous accreditation), must complete a self-study process leading to an EPP's production of a Self-Study Report (SSR), a Formative Review, and Site Visit. An EPP may elect to participate as designated in CAEP policy in the review panel deliberations. Additional details of the CAEP accreditation process are included in Accreditation Council policy.

- 5.4 A Site Visit, carried out by a Site Team, is an essential part of the accreditation process. Members of the assigned Site Team investigate the quality of an EPP's evidence, including the accuracy and consistency of the evidence provided in relation to CAEP Standards. During a two- to three-day Site Visit, the Site Team reviews evidence, data, and pedagogical artifacts (e.g., lesson plans, student work samples, videos) assembled by the EPP. The Site Team also interviews EPP leaders, faculty, mentor teachers, candidates, students, P-12 administrators, and other relevant stakeholders.
- 5.5 The TDOE elects that CAEP's reviews of EPPs in the state will be carried out using Site Teams composed as follows:
- 5.5.1 Joint Review Team. The Joint Review Team includes national site visitors appointed by CAEP and state site visitors (who have successfully completed CAEP national site visitor training) appointed by the TDOE. The TDOE shall provide CAEP with its list of site visitors within any timelines established by CAEP in the Accreditation Council policy and handbook. CAEP-appointed members must make up more than 50 percent of the team. The Site Team is led by a lead site visitor appointed by CAEP. Prior to assignment to any Site Team, an individual must have successfully completed CAEP national site visitor training and must acknowledge understanding of an agreement to adhere to CAEP's code of conduct, including with regard to confidentiality and conflicts of interest. Once assigned, the Joint Review Team will participate in formative and pre-site visit meetings. The TDOE consultant(s) and team lead will be a part of those pre-Site Visit meetings and will be allowed to provide additional background information on the TDOE accountability processes and review specific metrics put in place by the SBE and TDOE for individual EPPs.
- 5.6 Each Site Team shall include a P-12 practitioner, when possible. The TDOE will make recommendations for P-12 practitioners through the CAEP accreditation information management system.
- 5.7 All Site Visit activities undertaken by a CAEP site team will be conducted in accordance with the policies and procedures of CAEP, the Accreditation Council and Tennessee Educator Preparation Policy 5.504.
- 5.8 CAEP is not responsible for Site Visit expenses for TDOE-assigned personnel.
- 5.9 The TDOE conducts SAP reviews for purposes of making a recommendation to the SBE for state approval and to inform CAEP accreditation. EPPs will follow TDOE and SBE SAP approval guidelines. The TDOE provides forms and instructions to EPPs on how to address all state standards for SAP approval. State review of SAPs occurs during the on-site process. Upon completion of the TDOE tools and templates, trained reviewers are selected and assigned within appropriate content areas. Reviewers make recommendations for further action and/or state approval. The TDOE takes into account the reviewers' recommendations and annual report data to make action recommendations to the SBE for the final decision on approval of all SAPs that lead to state licensure.

- 5.10 The specific timeline established for the review of an EPP, as well CAEP’s consideration of any request for an extension, which originates from the EPP with documented support from TDOE, will be decided by CAEP if the request is for one year or less; if longer than one year, the request will be reviewed for approval by the Accreditation Council in accordance with CAEP and Accreditation Council policies.
- 5.11 Once granted full CAEP accreditation, an EPP’s term of accreditation shall be seven (7) years. Throughout this term, in order to maintain accreditation, an EPP must comply with CAEP and Accreditation Council policies, including policies regarding payment of annual dues and the submission of annual reports.
- 5.12 An EPP for which the Accreditation Council issues a decision to deny or revoke accreditation may have a right to petition or an appeal subject to CAEP Appeal Council policy.
- 5.13 The TDOE will provide to CAEP its policy leading to a “Change in State Status.” The TDOE will notify CAEP within thirty (30) days of SBE action taken when a CAEP accredited EPP has had a “Change in State Status” as a result of a decision on specialized professional program (SPA) status by the SBE.
- 5.14 Accreditation-specific terminology and definitions used by CAEP as part of its EPP review and accreditation processes may vary from similar terms and definitions used by the SBE and TDOE. Any definitions of key terms and glossaries created by CAEP are available on the CAEP website. The TDOE should inquire with CAEP about the definition of any term if there is uncertainty regarding its meaning in the CAEP accreditation context.

6. Opportunities for State Input

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 6.1. CAEP will afford the TDOE multiple opportunities as described below to provide CAEP, the Site Team, and members of the Accreditation Council with any information or data the TDOE deems relevant to the accreditation of an EPP, as follows:
- 6.2. As described in Section 5.5.1, above, the TDOE will elect to appoint members of the joint CAEP site team.
- 6.3. At least sixteen (16) weeks prior to any scheduled Site Visit, CAEP will give the TDOE notice of the upcoming visit. At any time up to six (6) weeks before the scheduled visit, the TDOE may provide CAEP with comments and information on the EPP for consideration by the site team. EPPs will be given an opportunity to respond to any such comments prior to the site visit.
- 6.4. At any time, the State may file a complaint regarding an EPP with the Accreditation Council for investigation and consideration as part of the EPP’s ongoing cycle of CAEP accreditation.
- 6.5. In the event an EPP within the state petitions for the appeal of an adverse action of the Accreditation Council, CAEP will notify the TDOE that such petition has been received. Any notification of a decision made by an appeal panel will be made in accordance with Section 7,

below, and the detailed notification provisions included in Accreditation Council policy.

7. Decisions of the Accreditation Council and Appeals Council

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 7.1. The Accreditation Council makes decisions regarding the accreditation of EPPs at regularly scheduled meetings held two times each year.
- 7.2. Following any decision of the Accreditation Council to deny or revoke the accreditation of an EPP, the EPP is promptly informed of its option to file a petition for an appeal and the requirements for qualifying to have an appeal considered by CAEP's Appeals Council. Appeals criteria and process information are included in Appeals Council policy.
- 7.3. CAEP provides written notice of each decision of the Accreditation Council and Appeals Council to the TDOE and the following individuals and entities:
 - United States Secretary of Education (only if required subsequent to CAEP achieving recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education) or relevant government agency for international EPPs
 - Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
 - Other State licensing or authorizing agency representatives, as appropriate
 - Appropriate accrediting agencies, including national, regional, and specialized accrediting agencies
 - Relevant state affiliates of the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- 7.4. In the event of a final decision to deny or revoke accreditation, CAEP's written notice will include a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the adverse action, along with the official comments, if any, that the affected EPP may wish to make with regard to the decision, or evidence that the affected EPP has been offered the opportunity to provide official comment.
- 7.5. The written notice CAEP provides regarding its accrediting decisions, made in accordance with the requirements of Federal regulations (34 CFR Part 602), includes notice to the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agency which may be a party to this agreement. Specifically, such notice will be provided no later than thirty (30) days following a decision to award initial accreditation or to renew or continue accreditation. In the event of a final decision to place an EPP on probation or to deny or terminate accreditation of an EPP, notice will be provided to the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency at the same time notice of the decision is given to the EPP, but no later than 30 days after the decision is reached. Within 30 days of receiving notification from an EPP that the EPP has decided to withdraw voluntarily from accreditation or to let its accreditation lapse CAEP will provide the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency with written notice.

8. Data Sharing

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 8.1. The CAEP Standards and process for CAEP accreditation require an EPP to collect and share data. To the extent that the TDOE maintains data necessary for CAEP's review of an EPP, subject to any restrictions under law and/or any data sharing agreement that may exist between an EPP and the TDOE, CAEP expects that the TDOE will make the relevant data available to CAEP at no cost, in a timely manner, with all personally identifiable information removed or redacted, and with all appropriate permissions to use the data for CAEP accreditation activities.
- 8.2. In order to facilitate the reviews necessary for CAEP accreditation, CAEP will provide the TDOE and each dues paying EPP in the state with access to AIMS, CAEP's data and information management system. Should the TDOE or any EPP fail to pay annual dues to CAEP in a timely manner, CAEP reserves the right to suspend access to AIMS until any outstanding dues are paid.
- 8.3. CAEP policies and the AIMS site include information on the confidential nature of information maintained within AIMS. All AIMS users must acknowledge CAEP's confidentiality policy and agree to adhere to it.

9. Partnership Dues, State Benefits, and Fees for Additional Services

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 9.1. The TDOE will be responsible for payment of annual State Partnership dues (See Appendix A). Dues may be reviewed and updated annually by CAEP. Should the amount of the TDOE's annual State Partnership dues be changed during the term of this agreement, CAEP will notify the TDOE of the new dues amount and the effective date.
- 9.2. CAEP will provide up to three (3) individuals employed by the TDOE with access to AIMS.
- 9.3. During each year covered by this agreement, CAEP will waive one CAEP Conference registration fee for one (1) designated TDOE representative; however, the TDOE or TDOE representative must assume other expenses associated with attending the conference.
- 9.4. During each year covered by this agreement, CAEP will assume all expenses for one (1) designated TDOE representative to attend the annual CAEP State Clinic. A registration fee will be assessed for any, additional TDOE staff and they must assume other expenses associated with attending the clinic.
- 9.5. CAEP offers states access to CAEP National Training for up to five site reviewers a year, including training and travel. (Additional participants may be added based on need and on a cost recovery basis) CAEP may also offer supplemental training opportunities for state reviewers. Supplemental training events that are arranged, including events in the state, will be provided by CAEP on a cost-recovery basis and with specific arrangements negotiated according to CAEP's policies regarding fees and expenses for training.

10. State and CAEP Contacts

The Parties understand and agree that:

10.1. The TDOE will designate a liaison to serve as the primary contact for CAEP throughout the term of this agreement.

10.2. CAEP will designate a liaison to serve as the primary contact for the TDOE through the term of this agreement.

11. Agreement Term and Amendments

The Parties understand and agree that:

11.1. CAEP and the TDOE enter into this partnership agreement for the two (2)-year period beginning July, 2018 and ending on June, 2020.

11.2. The Parties will review this agreement at least annually and, as necessary, propose any amendment deemed appropriate and which may be adopted upon the agreement of the Parties.

11.3. Should any provision of this agreement be determined to be in conflict with CAEP policy, including the policies of the Accreditation Council and Appeals Council, CAEP policy will be the prevailing authority and this agreement will be required to be amended to resolve the conflict.

11.4. Notwithstanding the annual review described above, this agreement may be modified by consent of the Parties at any point.

11.5. The TDOE reserves the right to terminate the agreement for convenience upon 30 days written notice to CAEP, i.e. in the event that the funds are not appropriated or are otherwise unavailable. The TDOE will fulfill any obligations incurred to the date of termination of this agreement.

Christopher Koch, President
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

DATE

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 TDOE.

Dr. Candice McQueen, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education

DATE

Appendix A: State Dues Structure

Beginning in FY18 (July 1, 2017), a new State Partnerships dues structure take effect. The new structure more fairly aligns and delineates (1) the collective resources required to service state partners in conjunction with their respective EPPs (fixed and proportional amounts), and (2) the variable resources required to administer the CAEP-state joint visits for states that choose to participate in the joint CAEP Accreditation processes (variable amount).

Annual costs for supporting activities associated with state partnerships have both fixed and proportional components which include costs associated with the CAEP Clinic, CAEP fall and spring conferences, staff time, technology costs for maintaining workspaces within CAEP's Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS), and other indirect expenses.

For the fixed and proportional amounts, states would be assessed \$2,750 annually to cover expenses for the spring convening and conference registration plus a portion of indirect expenses which are based on the actual percentage of CAEP member EPPs within each state.

For example:

State A has 20 CAEP member EPPs, or 2.2% of total CAEP EPPs. The proportional amount will be set at 2.2% of \$315,000 (current total), or \$6,900. Therefore the total fees for State A will be: \$2,750 (fixed) + \$6,900 (variable) = \$9,650.

* This represents the dues structure in effect at the time this agreement is entered into by the Parties. CAEP reviews the dues structure annually and reserves the right to adjust the State's annual dues as needed to ensure that all costs of CAEP's accreditation activities are adequately covered. CAEP will notify the State upon the adoption of any changes to this structure and the data on which any new dues structure will take effect.