



Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC)  
and  
The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)  
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 the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for CAEP accreditation in Oregon.

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. Oregon 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 Specialized Professional Area Program Reviews:

- A. The educator preparation provider may choose from among the three review options for specialized professional program areas listed in III. D below. EPPs will submit program reports following the instructions for the selected specialized professional program review process.
- B. The TSPC has sole responsibility for specialized program area approval. The Commission will use information generated from the three specialized review options to make decisions regarding Oregon's units' program approval. Programs must be approved by the Commission *within 24 months* of first submission of materials through any one of the program review options.

- 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 approval of specialized professional program areas, the TSPC recognizes the following three review options:

**1. CAEP Program Review with SPA Standards:**

CAEP Program Review with National Recognition applies Specialized Professional Associations (SPAs) standards in the SPA review process and may result in National Recognition. The TSPC will review the program review report and will make a decision on whether to accept the national findings or to impose state program review standards to the program's recognition process.

See: Websites of CAEP and of particular SPAs for more information.

**2. CAEP Program Review with Evaluative Feedback:**

CAEP Program Review with Evaluative Feedback provides information to educator preparation providers, states and accreditation teams. The TSPC will review the Evaluative Feedback and will make a decision on continued state approval. Program clusters will be reviewed by trained CAEP reviewers. See: [www.caep.org](http://www.caep.org) for more information.

**3. State Review by Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission:** The TSPC conducts specialized program area reviews for purposes of CAEP and state accreditation. The TSPC provides forms and instructions on how to meet all Oregon standards for licensure program approval. Upon completion of the TSPC process, trained reviewers are selected and assigned within appropriate content areas. Reviewers make recommendations for further action or approval of the unit's programs. TSPC appointed review teams examine documents for all specialized program areas to ensure compliance under state statute and law. The TSPC makes the final decision on approval of all programs. [See <http://www.oregon.gov/tspc> for more information on the State Review Process.]

EPPs will choose one or more of these options for each specialized professional program area.

**IV. Accreditation Review Team Composition:**

Joint review teams will consist of members appointed by CAEP and by the TSPC and will conduct unit reviews. The team will be lead by co-chairs (one appointed by TSPC, the other by CAEP.) CAEP-appointed members will make up more the 50% of the team.

The following conditions apply to the CAEP/TSPC Accreditation Reviews:

- A. All members of Review Teams must have successfully completed CAEP Review Team Member training or similar training conducted by TSPC.
- B. A P-12 practitioner shall be a member of each joint CAEP/TSPC team.
- C. The state teachers' association(s) may appoint an observer for the onsite review at the association's expense.
- D. The EPP will assume all expenses-including travel, lodging and meals-for CAEP and TSPC team members as well as the periodic evaluation fee. Onsite team activities will be conducted according to CAEP Policy.
- E. The CAEP/TSPC joint team report will be shared with the state partnership member.
- F. To assure educator preparation providers and the public that Joint CAEP/TSPC 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 CAEP's Code of Conduct.

**V. Other Terms and Conditions:**

- A. CAEP will collaborate with the TSPC 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 TSPC representative to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, with additional welcome at TSPC's 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 TSPC will receive copies of all pertinent accreditation and specialized program area approval documents and reports.
- C. The TSPC will provide copies of all final state accreditation reports to CAEP following all joint site visits.
- D. The TSPC will provide to CAEP its policy leading to a "Change in State Status." The TSPC will notify CAEP within thirty days of final TSPC 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.
- E. Responses to the final reports by the EPP and/or the TSPC will follow procedures and timelines established in CAEP policy.
- F. Oregon EPPs that are seeking CAEP accreditation or hold CAEP accreditation status will pay annual CAEP dues.
- G. TSPC will be responsible for annual CAEP membership dues. Final accreditation decisions are posted on CAEP's website. CAEP sends the Executive Director of the TSPC 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).
- H. The partnership agreement shall be for an initial period of five years (August 1, 2013 through July 31, 2018) and may be modified by the two parties during that time, if

mutually agreed to and deemed to be necessary.

- I. The state will work with associations that represent P-12 educators (OEA, AFT, NBPTS, COSA), education preparation providers, and education administrators to establish credit toward continuing education units or professional development requirements at the local district level in return for the state's P-12 educators' professional contributions to the work of CAEP – as visiting team members or program reviewers.
- J. 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**

**Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director**  
**Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission**

**Adopted by the Commission on April 25, 2013**