



## STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**

*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

#### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Education Deans and Directors of Teacher Education

**FROM:** James Ritter  
Education Associate for Educator Preparation, Office of Educator Services

**DATE:** August 6, 2018

**RE:** Approval Process for Middle Level Program Changes

In 2015, the Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE) fully implemented revised program standards, eliminating the requirement of that specialized professional association of two concentration areas for the content preparation of middle level candidates in undergraduate programs. To align with these revised AMLE standards, the State Board of Education (SBE), on December 12, 2017, approved a similar change in the content area requirements for South Carolina's middle level teacher preparation programs. The revised SBE policy allows educator preparation providers (EPPs) the option of one concentration area as part of an approved middle level program. As a result, an EPP may either continue to offer its approved program with two subject area concentrations or redesign and seek approval for a modified program requiring, at minimum, one concentration.

For reference, the revised SBE policy regarding middle level content area preparation is provided below:

#### Content Area Preparation: Middle Level (Grades 5–8)

Minimally, middle level candidates at the undergraduate level must complete one area of content preparation. Candidates must take eighteen to twenty-one semester hours of course work in the selected content area (i.e., English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies). At least twelve credit hours in the selected content area must be upper-level coursework (above general education requirements). Clinical experiences

for middle level candidates must be in grades five through eight in the content area(s) in which they are seeking initial certification; however, candidates should have field experiences across the middle level grade span. Candidates are encouraged to take six to twelve semester hours in a second content area in order to pursue add-on certification in another middle level content area at a later time. The additional hours in a second content area are not required for a candidate to complete an initial certification program or to be recommended for initial certification. As part of an approved program, EPPs may require candidates to complete two areas of concentration with at least fifteen semester hours of course work in each area.

The SCDE Office of Educator Services and the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) are working together to facilitate the review process for EPPs seeking to change their approved middle level programs from two concentration areas to one.

As a reminder, all necessary approval processes must be completed at the institutional level prior to submitting the program change to the CHE and/or the SCDE for review. The attached chart summarizes the actions and documentation needed as part of the program modification process. If you have questions regarding the redesign of your EPP's middle level program or about the review process at SCDE please contact me at [jritter@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jritter@ed.sc.gov), or Dr. John Lane at [jlane@che.sc.gov](mailto:jlane@che.sc.gov) for questions about the process at the Commission.

As always, we appreciate your many efforts in preparing teachers to serve South Carolina's P-12 students in classrooms throughout our state.