



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Education Deans and Directors of Teacher Education
Accreditation Coordinators

FROM: Jacki Walsh 
Education Associate, Office of Educator Services

DATE: January 18, 2018

RE: National Specialty Area Accreditation

This memorandum provides formal documentation that the South Carolina Department of Education recognizes the policy of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) regarding programs that achieve specialty area accreditation from a specialized accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USED) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). These other national specialized and professional associations, which include the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the National Association of Schools of Music, and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs, among others, are listed on the [CAEP webpage](#) addressing this policy.

Per CAEP policy, an educator preparation provider (EPP) that secures specialty area accreditation from one of these national organizations may choose to have any such accredited program(s) exempted from review by CAEP. In this circumstance, the program will be recognized as accredited by the specialized accreditor but not by CAEP. While the EPP itself will pursue CAEP accreditation, the provider will not be required to report the number of completers in these programs in any annual report submitted to CAEP. The provider must, however, present documentation of the current accreditation status of the particular program(s) to CAEP. During an onsite accreditation visit, evidence should be available to demonstrate that all of an EPP's programs comply with South Carolina requirements (e.g., Read to Succeed; Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT); etc.).

Should an EPP choose to have these programs reviewed during the CAEP accreditation process, the programs will be treated in the same manner as any other program that has specialized professional association recognition. If the EPP chooses to have these programs be part of the

CAEP accreditation process and recognized by CAEP, evidence required to meet the CAEP standards must be submitted for review, and completion numbers must be included in the EPP Annual Report.

CAEP's acceptance of the decisions of national accrediting organizations recognized by the USED or by CHEA is also referenced in [South Carolina's state partnership agreement](#) with CAEP.