

South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures

National Provider Standards

Regulation 43-90, Program Approval Standards for South Carolina Teacher Education Institutions, requires all Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) in South Carolina to meet the standards of the national accreditation organization with which the state has a partnership agreement. EPPs at public institutions of higher education must seek and receive national accreditation; EPPs at private institutions of higher education may seek national accreditation or meet national standards through a state approval process. Whether an institution seeks national accreditation or state approval, all institutions of higher education with EPPs must meet the appropriate level standards of the national accreditation organization with which the state has a partnership agreement.

In 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) established a partnership agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the national organization created by the merger of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the state's previous accreditation partner, and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). This [state partnership agreement](#), valid for seven years, may be amended at any time; establishes partnership goals; identifies program review options; and outlines the responsibilities of the state, the accreditor, and providers.

Provider Standards for Initial Level Programs

Whether seeking national accreditation or state approval, all South Carolina providers preparing candidates for certification at the initial level must meet the CAEP Standards for Accreditation at the Initial Level in accordance with the institution's review cycle. Consistent with CAEP's definition, an initial-level program is designed to develop P–12 teachers at the baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate level and leads to initial educator certification.

All providers seeking accreditation at the initial level through a review process conducted by CAEP or the state must use the appropriate CAEP Accreditation Handbook as the primary guide for meeting the national standards of the accreditation process.

In addition to meeting the national standards, all providers must also meet the state standards and requirements approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) as part of the South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines.

Provider Standards for Advanced Level Programs

Whether seeking national accreditation or state approval, all South Carolina EPPs preparing educators for additional certification at the advanced level must meet the CAEP Standards for Accreditation at the Advanced Level in accordance with the institution's review cycle. Consistent with CAEP's definition, an advanced-level program is one at the post-baccalaureate or graduate level that leads to an additional educator certification and is designed to develop P–12 educators who have already completed an initial-certification program, currently certified administrators, or other certified school professionals for employment in P–12 schools/districts.

For the purposes of these guidelines and the accreditation process, South Carolina preparation programs leading to educator certification in the fields of School Counseling, Library Media Specialist, Speech-Language Therapist, School Principal, and Superintendent are considered advanced level programs.

All providers seeking accreditation at the advanced level through a review process conducted by CAEP or the state must use the appropriate CAEP Accreditation Handbook as the primary guide for meeting the requirements of the accreditation process.

In addition to meeting the national standards, all providers must also meet the state standards and requirements approved by the SBE as part of the South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines.