

## **South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures** *Draft Policy for Online and Out of State Programs and Coursework*

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is available to assist educators as they explore online options for coursework and programs approved for certification purposes. Due to the increasing number of online and distance learning programs, the SCDE, Office of Educator Services does not maintain a list of approved online courses and programs on the agency website. Educators seeking to enroll in an online institution of higher education (IHE) must submit a request prior to enrollment for verification that the program or courses can be used for the intended purpose, which may include initial certification, add-on certification, or certificate advancement.

### *Out-of-State Educator Preparation Programs and South Carolina Certification*

Pursuant to agency policy, the SCDE will accept an out-of-state educator preparation program for certification purposes in South Carolina so long as the institution is regionally accredited and the preparation program is approved for certification or licensing in the specific certification field in the state with jurisdiction for program approval and provider accreditation. An individual seeking educator certification in the state of South Carolina through completion of a preparation program at an out-of-state institution, has two options for pursuing a South Carolina educator credential.

1. The individual may apply for a South Carolina educator certificate as an out-of-state educator who holds a valid, current standard educator license in the other state.

OR

2. The individual may apply for initial certification in South Carolina based on successful completion of an out-of-state program approved for certification or licensing in the specific certification field in the state with jurisdiction for the program. The institution must be regionally accredited, and the education dean or designee must submit the required [verification form](#) documenting the applicant's successful completion of all requirements of the program. The applicant must also meet all other certification requirements for South Carolina and present qualifying scores on the subject area and pedagogy assessments required by the State Board of Education.

The SCDE advises any individual considering an out-of-state preparation program to seek verification of certification eligibility or certificate advancement from the Office of Educator Services at least ninety days prior to enrolling in the program. This request for approval verification can be submitted through a [Request for Change/Action Form](#).

This policy guidance applies specifically to traditional, college- or university-based preparation programs and not alternative route preparation programs.

The SCDE does not accept out-of-state alternative route preparation programs for certification purposes. An individual who successfully completes an alternative route program in another

state and holds a current standard educator license in that state may apply for South Carolina certification eligibility as an out-of-state educator.

