

Approved by the State Board of Education August 8, 2012

South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures
Program Approval and Recognition

Important Note: In 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) entered a partnership agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the accrediting organization formed by the merger of the state’s previous partner, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. On February 11, 2020, the State Board of Education (SBE) formally adopted the CAEP standards as the national provider standards which South Carolina providers must meet either through a national or state accreditation review. This policy, originally approved by the SBE on August 8, 2012, has been updated to replace references to NCATE with CAEP, the current accreditation partner. The term “unit” which was used with NCATE has been replaced with term “provider” or “educator preparation provider” as consistent with CAEP terminology. Except as noted, the content of the policy remains unchanged.

Recently Approved Programs

Educator preparation providers (EPPs) are required to submit program reports to the appropriate specialized professional associations (SPA) (if the EPP is CAEP-accredited) or to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) the semester immediately following the graduation of their first ten completers in a recently approved program or at the time of the cyclical review, whichever comes first. Reports reviewed by state-review teams must be based on the SBE standards and must use the same forms and procedures as those required by the SPAs. Teams at on-site visits use the results of the program reviews as evidence of the quality of the individual programs offered by the EPP (CAEP Standard 1).

Continuing Programs

The accreditation process requires the submission of program reports for all educator preparation providers for which the SBE has approved standards. These reports must be submitted in accordance with the CAEP Timelines by Semester of Visit. Reports reviewed by state review teams must be based on the SBE standards and must use the same forms and procedures as those required by the SPAs. Programs should consult with state agency personnel prior to initiating a program report to ensure that appropriate standards are being assessed. Teams at on-site visits use the results of the program reviews as evidence of the quality of the individual programs offered by the EPP (CAEP Standard 1).