

**South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures**  
*Program Modification*

*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.

*Modification of an Existing Program*

Since programs are under continuous review, it will not be unusual for an existing program to seek a modification based on changes in the profession as well as on data about candidate performance. Programs in the public domain should consult initially with the staff of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to determine if the modification should be managed by letter of notification or through a more formal program modification process. Once a modification is reviewed and approved by the CHE, the state agency will use that same documentation to review the status of the modified program. Programs in the private domain should consult with personnel in the state agency to determine the amount of documentation required to recognize the modification. In most cases, the change will be taken to the Professional Review Committee (PRC) and the SBE for information only. If the program modification involves a substantive change in mission, outcomes, or courses that may affect the certification status of completers, a peer review will be conducted, the results of which will be submitted to the PRC for a recommendation to the SBE.