

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

Provider Termination of Accreditation and Reestablishment Processes

Pursuant to Regulation 43-90, Program Approval Standards for South Carolina Teacher Education Institutions, each educator preparation provider (EPP) must meet the standards of the national accreditation association with which the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has a partnership agreement. In 2015, the SCDE established an agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Public institutions must seek and receive national accreditation; private institutions may seek national accreditation or meet national standards through a state process that is aligned with that of the national accreditor. Whether a provider seeks national accreditation or state approval, statutory authority to determine accreditation decisions for and impose sanctions against teacher education programs is granted to the State Board of Education (SBE).

Provider Termination of Accreditation

The termination of an accredited provider will occur when the provider loses its accreditation through revocation or allows its accreditation to be withdrawn or to lapse.

Termination of accreditation means:

- the provider may not admit new candidates to any preparation program within the scope of the accreditation;
- candidates that do not complete the program prior to a lapse in provider accreditation must be counseled regarding transfer options. In an extenuating circumstance impacting a candidate, a provider may submit a formal request for a modified timeline for State Board of Education (SBE) consideration. Any modified timeline must be approved by the SBE; and
- the SCDE will determine the date a provider's certification recommendations will no longer be accepted.

Revocation of Accreditation

When the SBE revokes a provider's state accreditation or CAEP revokes a provider's national accreditation, the provider must submit a termination plan to the SCDE within thirty days of the decision. The SCDE will then inform the Professional Review Committee (PRC) and the SBE that the termination plan has been submitted for review.

When a provider's national or state accreditation is revoked, the SBE will make the final determination regarding the provider's educator preparation accreditation status.

Withdrawal of Accreditation

A provider that withdraws from the state or national accreditation process must submit formal notice to the SCDE that includes a termination plan. If the provider is withdrawing from the national accreditation process, it must include the SCDE on correspondence with CAEP. Consistent with CAEP policy, if a provider withdraws from CAEP, the accreditation ends immediately, effective on the date of notification. The SCDE will then notify the PRC and the

SBE that the provider no longer holds accreditation. The final determination regarding the provider's educator preparation accreditation status will be made by the SBE.

Lapse in Accreditation

A provider may allow their national or state accreditation to lapse if they are eliminating all educator preparation programs. In this instance, a lapse allows a provider to teach-out current candidates while continuing to complete required reports for the remainder of the accreditation term. A provider that chooses to allow its accreditation to lapse must submit formal notice to the SCDE that includes a termination plan.

Change of Accreditor

Private institutions may choose to lapse national accreditation in favor of pursuing state accreditation. In this instance, a lapse allows a provider to maintain national accreditation throughout the initial term while preparing to seek state accreditation. Providers should refer to the accreditor's policy regarding the payment of dues and completion of annual reports for the remainder of the national accreditation term. Providers that seek to change accreditors must contact the SCDE for guidance throughout the process at least one year prior to the lapse of accreditation.

Termination Plan

Whether a provider's accreditation is revoked, withdrawn, or lapsed, the SCDE will notify the PRC and SBE of the provider's intent to terminate its accreditation status and discontinue its educator preparation programs. The provider must submit a termination plan accompanied by a formal letter signed by the education dean or director of educator preparation and the institution's president, provost, or board chair.

The termination plan must include the following:

- the effective date of change (i.e., the date on which new candidates will no longer be admitted to programs);
- the reason for the change in status;
- the date by which all currently enrolled students will have graduated or transferred to other programs;
- a list of terminated programs;
- a list of accrediting agencies effected by the change in provider status and assurances that these accreditors are notified; and
- a teach-out plan to include:
 - contact information for each program's coordinator;
 - date of written notification to all enrolled and prospective candidates;
 - date of publication of the termination notice on the provider website; and
 - summary of completion and/or transfer options for currently enrolled candidates.

Reestablishment

Following a final accreditation action of revocation, the provider must wait a minimum of one calendar year after the accreditation decision to submit a new provider and program proposal.