

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

### *Voluntary Termination*

*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.

### *Voluntary Program Terminations*

Public institutions must notify the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) in writing that a program is being voluntarily terminated. Private institutions must notify the state agency in writing that a program is being withdrawn. Such notifications are shared with the Professional Review Committee (PRC) and the SBE as information. The notification from the institution should include the date when a program will officially cease to exist and thus when the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) should no longer consider the educator preparation provider's (EPPs) subsequent graduates for certification. After the effective date of program closure, the EPP may not recommend candidates from that program for certification. Institutions will be ineligible to submit a request for the reestablishment of a withdrawn program for a period of one year after the date of the original termination.

### *State Termination of a Program's Certification Recommendation Authority*

Educator preparation programs that result in initial or advanced certification must be nationally recognized by a CAEP-approved specialized professional association (SPA) or state-recognized through a review coordinated by the SCDE. The state participates in CAEP's policy of recognizing certain other national specialized and professional associations. Certification programs not subject to a CAEP-approved SPA or state recognition must meet the standards of these other national specialized and professional associations if they are permitted to recommend candidates for certification.

Programs must seek national or state approval once ten candidates have completed the program or when program reports are due for an upcoming EPP accreditation visit. The failure of any program to obtain national or state recognition through the revised program report process within the given time period will result in a review of that program by the PRC. The PRC, at that time, may choose to continue the program on probation for a defined period of time while recognition is sought or to terminate the certification authority of the program. The recommendation of the PRC will be taken to the Education Professions Committee (EPC) and subsequently to the SBE for final action. During a period of probation, no new candidates may be admitted to the

program, and existing candidates must be informed of the probationary status of the program. If certification authority is terminated by the SBE, no new candidates can be admitted, and the existing candidates have two years to complete the program. If existing candidates do not complete the program within two years, they must transfer to another program or they will be denied certification by the SCDE. When any educator preparation program is terminated, the institution must notify all current and potential internal candidates of the status of its program.

Any existing program with substantial changes that were made in the middle of the review cycle and that constitute a substantial shift in the purpose and outcome of the program or the certificate area will be subject to an off-cycle program review. Failure by an institution to request a program review will result in its candidates being ineligible for certification.

The state will not take a program that is not nationally recognized or state-recognized into a first state EPP or first CAEP EPP review.