

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

CODE:	<u>EP-05</u>
COMMITTEE:	<u>Education Professions</u>
DATE:	<u>August 5, 2025</u>

SUBJECT/TITLE

Professional Review Committee (PRC): Provider and Program Updates

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

The purpose of this item is to notify the State Board of Education (SBE) of recent provider and program notifications, status updates, and recognitions reviewed by the PRC since January 2025.

CRITICAL FACTS

Pursuant to the South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures, educator preparation providers (EPPs) must submit a notification to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) at any time the institution makes a change of fewer than eighteen semester hours in an SBE-approved preparation program. An EPP may select to modify a preparation program as part of a cyclical review and continuous improvement process; program updates may be based on changes in the profession, data about candidate performance, candidate enrollment data, or other factors. Public providers must first provide notification to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education prior to submitting the notification to the SCDE and SBE. All notifications submitted to the SCDE are reviewed by members of the PRC.

In addition to program notifications, the SCDE has received and the PRC has reviewed other status updates from several providers. Please find notifications that the PRC has reviewed from the January through July 2025 academic term.

The following abbreviations are used below.

- Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
- Master of Arts (M.A.)
- Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)
- Master of Education (M.Ed.)
- Educational Specialist (Ed.S.)

Charter Inspire

The South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) notified the SCDE that four additional charter schools will participate as a part of the alternative certification program, Charter Inspire, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The schools include Tall Pines STEM Academy, Liberty STEAM Charter School, Meeting Street Academy–Spartanburg, and Polaris Technical Charter School.

Charter Inspire will also offer the certification field of Business and Marketing Education (Grades 9-12) moving forward.

Coastal Carolina University

Coastal Carolina notified the SCDE that it has revised three content area courses for the Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education. Each course will focus more specifically on one content area.

Furman University

Due to budgetary cuts, Furman University will terminate a number of its educator preparation programs.

After the 2024-2025 cohort graduates in May 2025, the university will eliminate MAT programs in the following fields:

- Biology (Grades 9-12)
- Chemistry (Grades 9-12)
- English (Grades 9-12)
- French (PK- Grade 12)
- Mathematics (Grades 9-12)
- Physics (Grades 9-12)
- Social Studies (Grades 9-12)
- Spanish (PK- Grade 12)

After the Spring 2027 semester, Furman plans to terminate the Elementary Education residency program. The institution is no longer admitting candidates into this program. A teach-out plan will be in place for current candidates, and the last cohort is scheduled to complete the program in Spring 2027. Furman anticipates that the university faculty will formally approve the department's decision to eliminate the program during meetings in Fall 2025.

Additionally, Furman has terminated the Ed.S. in School Leadership program leading to Superintendent certification. There are currently no educators enrolled in this program. Furman anticipates that faculty will formally approve the decision to eliminate the program during meetings in Fall 2025.

Morris College

Morris College notified the SCDE that it will terminate its B.S. programs in English, Mathematics, Biology, and Social Studies. This impacts three candidates who are enrolled in their first year of college. These candidates will be counseled into other majors.

Newberry College

Newberry College notified the SCDE that it will terminate its B.S. programs in Biology and Chemistry. There is no enrollment currently; so, no teach-out plan is necessary.

North Greenville University

North Greenville University has updated the plan of study for the B.S. in Physical Education. The Planning and Assessment course, formerly EDSE 2330, will now have the prefix/course number of PHED 2301. The course is now housed in the physical education department.

South Carolina State University

South Carolina State University notified the SCDE that the B.S. programs in Middle-Level Education will move from two concentrations to one concentration per program. The offerings now include Middle-Level English, Middle-Level Mathematics, Middle-Level Science, and Middle-Level Social Studies.

Teach Florence 1

Teach Florence 1, the alternative certification pathway in Florence 1 Schools, notified the SCDE that it will allow candidates to meet the required literacy coursework through LETRS® training (Units 1-8).

The Citadel

The Citadel notified the SCDE of changes to the STEM Education M.Ed. program. The Citadel is eliminating two two-hour courses since content is addressed in other coursework. Candidates needed to complete at least 6 hours per semester to qualify for this financial aid.

Winthrop University's Network for Alternative Preparation in Teaching (NetAPT)

Winthrop University's NetAPT notified the SCDE that it will expand admission criteria to align with required Alternative Route Program Provider and Program Approval Process and Standards. With this change, a candidate may qualify with a GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in the content area major or in the last sixty hours of coursework. This will allow the EPP to admit more candidates that are well positioned to become effective teachers.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

January 10, 2025	North Greenville University notifies the SCDE of changes to the B.S. in Physical Education program.
February 2, 2025	Furman University notifies the SCDE that it has terminated its MAT programs after the 2024-25 academic year.

February 13, 2025	The SCPCSD notifies the SCDE that Polaris Technical Charter School will be operating as a part of the alternative certification program, Charter Inspire, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Charter Inspire also noted that the certification field of Business and Marketing Education (Grades 9-12) will now be offered.
March 18, 2025	Morris College notifies the SCDE that it will terminate its undergraduate secondary education programs.
March 27, 2025	The SCPCSD notifies the SCDE that Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg will be operating as a part of the alternative certification program, Charter Inspire, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.
April 15, 2025	Coastal Carolina University notifies the SCDE that it has revised three content area courses for the Bachelor of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education.
May 8, 2025	Furman University notifies the SCDE that it will be terminating its Elementary Education residency program and its School Leadership (District Level) program.
May 21, 2025	The Citadel notifies the SCDE of changes to the STEM Education M.Ed. program.
May 23, 2025	The SCPCSD notifies the SCDE that two additional charter schools will be operating as a part of the alternative certification program, Charter Inspire, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.
May 28, 2025	Teach Florence 1 notifies the SCDE that it will allow candidates to meet the required literacy coursework through LETRS® training.
June 6, 2025	Winthrop University's NetAPT notifies the SCDE that it will expand admission criteria to align with the Alternative Route Program Provider and Program Approval Process and Standards.
June 13, 2025	Newberry College notifies the SCDE that it will terminate its Biology and Chemistry education programs.
June 26, 2025	South Carolina State University notifies the SCDE that all Middle Level programs will now be offered as separate program concentrations.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST: N/A

FUND/SOURCE: N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments: ☒ yes ☐ no
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

Name of Attachments:

1. Charter Inspire Notification 1
2. Charter Inspire Notification 2

3. Charter Inspire Notification 3
4. Coastal Carolina University Notification
5. Furman University Termination Notification 1
6. Furman University Termination Notification 2
7. Morris College Termination Notification
8. Newberry College Termination Notification
9. North Greenville Notification
10. South Carolina State University Notification
11. Teach Florence 1 Notification
12. The Citadel Notification
13. Winthrop University NetAPT Notification

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information purposes only.

ACTION REQUEST

FOR APPROVAL:

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

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Revised: 12-20-21