



TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

SUBJECT: Discussion of Whether Educator Preparation Programs Should be Considered Continuously Accredited if They Apply for Accreditation Through an Alternative Professional Association that is Seeking Recognition from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or the United States Department of Education

DATE: November 30, 2017

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SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents consider educator preparation programs to be continuously accredited if they apply for accreditation through an alternative professional association that is seeking recognition from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or the United States Department of Education?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its December 2017 Board of Regents meeting.

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

Currently, §52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education requires all institutions of higher education with registered educator preparation programs (e.g., teacher, school leader) to be accredited by an acceptable professional education accrediting association. When this regulation was first adopted by the Board of Regents and implemented in 1999, there were two options for the accreditation of education programs that were recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA): National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). In addition, a process for accreditation was developed by the Board of Regents, and implemented in 2002, called Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education (RATE). NCATE and TEAC were both recognized by USDE or CHEA. RATE was discontinued by the Board in September 2010 due to budget and staffing shortages.

In 2013, NCATE and TEAC consolidated to form the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), leaving a single national accreditor for educator preparation providers. CAEP is recognized by CHEA. Since the creation of CAEP, many NYS educator preparation providers have expressed a desire to have more than a single accreditation option.

At this time, the Department is aware of an organization that is in the process of seeking CHEA approval to become a recognized accreditor of educator preparation providers (EPPs). This organization is working with higher education faculty and state education agencies from multiple states on the development of its standards and processes for accreditation so that it can apply to be a recognized accreditor by CHEA. The Department would like to ensure that EPPs have the opportunity to explore alternative accreditation options if they should become available.

If the Committee approves the conceptual approach to consider EPPs continuously accredited if they apply to an association that is applying to USDE or CHEA for national recognition within a certain time period, the Department will come back at the January 2018 Board meeting with a proposed regulatory change to §52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations to consider EPPs participating in an alternative accreditation process to be "continuously accredited" for program registration purposes.

Related Regents Items

September 2010: [Discontinuation of Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education August 2010](#)

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2010Meetings/September2010/0910hea2.pdf>

November 2013: [Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education Extension](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/113brca8.pdf)
<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/113brca8.pdf>

December 2016: [Partnership between Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and State Education Department](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1216hed1.pdf)
<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1216hed1.pdf>

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Committee approves this conceptual approach, the Department anticipates coming back to the Board of Regents with a proposed amendment to §52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education at the January 2018 Board meeting.