

Proposed Arkansas Department of Education Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval

Summary

The proposed changes to the Arkansas Department of Education Policies for Educator Preparation Program Approval are made to reflect the transition of accreditation from National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) to the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), remove provisions duplicated in other rules, and make technical corrections to the rule.

Highlights of the revisions include:

- The name of the rule is changed to a shorter name that reflects the statutory basis for the policies.
- Language has been revised throughout the rule to transition from NCATE accreditation terminology to CAEP accreditation terminology.
- Sections 5.01.2 and 5.01.3 were deleted and incorporated in a new Section 9.0.
- Section 6.03 and its subdivisions are deleted to remove Specialized Professional Association accreditation as a substitute for state approval. This deletion also removes a provision for placing a program on inactive status, as CAEP accreditation will control this.
- Section 6.04 is added due to the deletion of old Sections 8.0 and 10.0.
- Section 7.05 is added to cover the licensure areas of library media specialist, reading specialist, and guidance and school counselors, as these areas were previously inadvertently omitted from these policies.
- Section 7.06 is revised to remove the minimum number of semester hours to add flexibility for programs.
- Section 7.08.1.4 is added to cover the 4-12 licensure area, previously inadvertently omitted.
- Section 7.08.3 is added to place the provisions of old Section 7.08.8 in a more appropriate place in the policies; therefore, old Section 7.08.8 is deleted.
- Section 7.09 clarifies that this provision relates to recommending candidates for licensure, not identifying them as “completers”, as that is a term of art for Title II and other purposes.

- Old Sections 8.0 and 10.0 have been removed. They were specifically for candidates and are included in the *ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure*. These policies should focus on the education preparation programs and be usable as the basis for audit criteria.
- Old Section 11.0 regarding program accountability is also removed as it is not needed during the transition to CAEP.
- New Section 9.0 is added to accurately reflect the current accountability provisions for educator preparation program approval by the ADE and PLSB. The provisions reflect what will happen when approval or accreditation is discontinued. It also reflects the changes in audit provisions in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 (Act 1090). New provisions were included for a State Board hearing process when an institution of higher education challenges a PLSB recommendation to the State Board for removal of authority to offer a program.