

**The Indiana Department of Education  
and the  
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation  
Partnership Agreement**

In order to promote excellence in educator preparation by coordinating Indiana state approval and national accreditation reviews of Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) in the State of Indiana, and to eliminate duplication of effort and reporting, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) enter into this partnership agreement. The agreement describes the partnership and delineates the processes and policies for CAEP accreditation in Indiana.

**I. Standards for National Accreditation of Educator Preparation Providers**

- A. CAEP educator preparation provider standards for initial and advanced programs must be met on the basis of sufficient and accurate evidence to merit national accreditation by CAEP.
- B. Indiana standards, including teacher content and developmental/pedagogical standards and InTASC standards, must be applied in the CAEP accreditation process. Any additional standards that are unique to an institution must align to state and CAEP standards.

**II. Process of National Accreditation for Educator Preparation Providers**

- A. The process required for national accreditation by CAEP is outlined in CAEP policies. EPPs seeking CAEP accreditation must satisfy eligibility requirements, submit a self-study in a CAEP-approved format for formative feedback through off-site review, facilitate the posting of a call for public comment and distribution of third-party surveys to stakeholders, host a site visit, and complete an approved program review process for all programs of study leading to professional practice in a school setting.
- B. Terms of accreditation shall be for seven (7) years. EPP accreditation status is subject to CAEP policies, including annual payment of fees and submission of an annual report as required.

**III. Standards and Processes for Program Review**

- A. The educator preparation provider may choose from among any of the program review options listed in III.D below that have been approved by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) in this partnership agreement. EPPs will submit program reports following the instructions for the selected program review process. To be eligible to recommend teacher candidates in Indiana, all programs must adhere to all present and future reporting requirements.
- B. The IDOE has sole responsibility for all Indiana program approvals. The IDOE will utilize information generated from the two program review options to make

decisions regarding Indiana continuing program approval. Using information provided as part of the accreditation and program review process, the IDOE makes the final decision on approval of all programs.

- C. As evidence of quality, CAEP accepts the decisions of national accrediting organizations for specialized professional program areas that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Proper documentation of current accreditation must be presented by the EPP.
- D. For purposes of Indiana program approval, the IDOE recognizes the following program review options:

**1. CAEP Program Review with National Recognition:**

CAEP Program Review with National Recognition applies specialized professional associations' (SPA) standards in the SPA review process and can result in national recognition.

*See: Websites of CAEP and of particular SPAs for more information.*

**2. Indiana Review by Indiana Department of Education Review by STATE AUTHORITY:**

The Indiana Department of Education conducts program reviews for purposes of Indiana approval and to inform State/CAEP accreditation. The Indiana Department of Education provides forms and instructions on how to meet all Indiana Standards for licensure/certificate program approval. Upon completion of the Indiana forms, trained reviewers are selected and assigned within appropriate content areas. Reviewers make recommendations for further action and/or approval. A Specialized Professional Associations' (SPA) program review must be completed for any program area for which a SPA is available. Only programs without a SPA will be reviewed by the state.

*See <http://www.doe.in.gov/licensing/accreditation-and-program-review> for more information on the Indiana accreditation and new and existing program review process.*

#### **IV. Accreditation Review Team Composition**

The Accreditation Review Team is appointed by CAEP according to the guidelines and policies for each selected accreditation pathway. The state will participate in a joint CAEP/IDOE review team. Joint teams consist of members appointed by CAEP and the state authority to conduct reviews. The team is led by co-chairs (one appointed by state authority, one by CAEP). CAEP-appointed members make up more than 50 percent of the team. The IDOE will also provide a state consultant during the offsite and onsite visit.

The following conditions apply to all teams:

- All members of the onsite and offsite review teams must have successfully completed CAEP review team member training.
- When possible, a P-12 professional will be included as a member of each CAEP team.

- The STATE Teachers' Association(s) may appoint an observer for the onsite review at the associations' expense.
- The EPP will assume all expenses-including travel, lodging and meals- for CAEP and Indiana team members, as well as the periodic evaluation fee. Onsite team activities will be conducted according to CAEP policy.
- The CAEP team report will be shared with the Indiana Department of Education.
- To assure educator preparation providers and the public that CAEP reviews are impartial and objective, to avoid conflicts of interest, and to promote equity and high ethical standards in the accreditation system, Accreditation Review Team members will adhere to CAEP's Code of Conduct.

## **V. Other Terms and Conditions**

- A.** CAEP will collaborate with the Indiana Department of Education to plan, design and implement a range of training opportunities for reviewers. As part of this agreement, IDOE contact(s) may participate in all web trainings. The registration fee, for one IDOE contact will be waived for one annual CAEP Conference; however the Indiana contact must assume other expenses. CAEP will assume all expenses for one Indiana contact to attend the annual CAEP Clinic, with additional Indiana staff welcome at their own expense, including a registration fee. Additional training events may be arranged, including events in the state, on a cost-recovery basis with arrangements negotiated according to CAEP's policies regarding fees and expenses for training.
- B.** The IDOE will receive copies of all pertinent accreditation and specialized program area approval documents and reports through access to the Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS); agency personnel will be supplied with login information, passwords, and technical support.
- C.** The IDOE will provide to CAEP its policy leading to a "Change in Status." The IDOE will notify CAEP within 30 days of action taken when a CAEP accredited educator preparation provider has had a "Change in Status" as a result of a decision on specialized professional program status by the IDOE for educator preparation.
- D.** Responses to the final reports by the EPP and/or the IDOE will follow procedures and timelines established in CAEP policy.
- E.** Indiana EPPs that are seeking CAEP accreditation or hold CAEP accreditation status will pay annual CAEP dues.
- F.** The STATE AUTHORITY will be responsible for annual CAEP membership dues. Final accreditation decisions are posted on CAEP's website. CAEP sends the Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Education a letter with the official accreditation decision. Additionally, CAEP provides written notice of all accreditation decisions to the U.S. Department of Education, the IDOE, all accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and the public (via the CAEP website).

- G. The partnership agreement shall be for an initial period of seven years (May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2022) and may be modified by the two parties during that time, if deemed to be necessary.
  
- H. The terms of this agreement have been reached by mutual consent and have been read and understood by the persons whose signatures appear below. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the plan as set forth herein.

Christopher Koch, President  
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

Glenda Ritz, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Indiana Department of Education