
3G

Action

Educator Preparation Committee

Initial Institutional Approval – Stage V: Consideration of Full Institutional Approval for Los Altos Elementary School District

Executive Summary: This agenda item presents, as part of the Initial Institutional Approval process, the report from the 2026 provisional site visit and the Committee on Accreditation’s recommendation for an accreditation decision for Los Altos Elementary School District (Los Altos SD). The Commission will consider granting Los Altos SD full institutional approval.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission review the Los Altos SD provisional site visit report and the Committee on Accreditation’s recommended accreditation decision and consider granting Los Altos SD full institutional approval.

Presenter: Hart Boyd, Consultant, Division of Standards, Accreditation, and Workforce Investment

Strategic Plan Goal

Educator Preparation and Advancement

- **Goal 1.** Educator preparation programs hold candidates to high standards and adequately prepare them to support all students by using culturally and linguistically responsive and sustaining practices in equitable, inclusive, and safe environments.
 - A. Set and uphold rigorous standards for educator preparation programs
 - C. Enact a rigorous accreditation process that ensures programs meet standards and are effective in preparing educators for public schools

Initial Institutional Approval – Stage V: Consideration of Institutional Approval for Los Altos Elementary School District

Introduction

This agenda item presents, as part of Stage V of the Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process, the report from the 2026 provisional site visit for Los Altos Elementary School District (Los Altos SD) and the Committee on Accreditation’s recommended accreditation decision. The Commission granted provisional institutional approval to Los Altos SD at its [April 2022](#) meeting, and the Committee on Accreditation (COA) approved Los Altos SD’s Teacher Induction program at its [June 2022](#) meeting. Consistent with the Commission’s Initial Institutional Approval process, Los Altos SD then began operating the Teacher Induction program and hosted a provisional site visit in February 2026. At its [March 2026](#) meeting, the COA accepted the site visit team’s findings and recommendation of accreditation and moved the institution forward to the Commission for consideration of full institutional approval.

Background

California law authorizes the Commission to accredit institutions to offer programs that lead to a credential to serve as an educator in California’s public schools. Among other responsibilities, Education Code section 44372(c) sets forth the Commission’s responsibility to rule on the eligibility of an applicant for initial accreditation for the purpose of offering a program of educator preparation.

The Commission requires that an institution seeking to offer new educator preparation program(s) must first be approved for initial accreditation as a new program sponsor and must do so by completing the Commission’s IIA process. A table detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on the following page. Los Altos SD completed the first four stages of the IIA process including hosting a provisional site visit. The timeline for these activities is illustrated in the table below.

Initial Institutional Approval Process Timeline for Los Altos Elementary School District

Activity	Date
Stage I	December 2020 – Completed Accreditation 101
Stage II	September 2021 – Commission Granted Eligibility
Stage III	April 2022 – Commission Granted Provisional Approval
Stage IV	June 2022 – COA Grants Initial Program Approval
Stage V	February 2026 – Provisional Site Visit
Stage V	March 2026 – Report of Provisional Site Visit to COA
Stage V	April 2026 – Commission considers Full Approval

Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

Los Altos SD is seeking approval of Stage V in order to be eligible for Full Approval as highlighted and italicized in the chart below.

IIA Process	Stage I	State II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage V
Action	Prerequisites	Eligibility	Provisional Approval	Initial Program Approval	Full Approval
Purpose	Ensures legal eligibility of institution in California Ensures institution understands requirements of Commission's accreditation system	Ensures that institution has capacity to sponsor effective programs	Ensures institution meets all Common Standards	Ensures all proposed programs meet all relevant program standards and program-specific preconditions	<i>Program operates for 2-4 years and hosts a provisional accreditation site visit</i>
Requirements	Institution must: 1. Have legal eligibility 2. Attend Accreditation 101 with institutional team	Submit responses to: • 12 Eligibility Criteria • Initial Program Preconditions • • General Precondition #9	Submit responses to: • Common Standards	Submit responses to: • Program-Specific Preconditions • • Program Standards	<i>Institution must:</i> • <i>Collect data</i> • <i>Host provisional site visit</i>
Reviewed By	Staff	Staff	: BIR	Preconditions: Staff Common Standards: BIR	<i>Site Visit Team and COA</i>
Authority	Staff	Commission	Commission	COA	<i>Commission</i>
Decision	Determine Eligibility for Stage II	Eligibility: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Provisional Approval: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Program(s): 1. Approve 2. Deny	1. <i>Grant Full Approval</i> 2. <i>Grant Full Approval & Remand to COA to Address Stipulations</i> 3. <i>Continue Provisional Status for 1 Year to Address Stipulations</i> 4. <i>Deny</i>
IIA Status	Not Approved	Not Approved	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval	<i>Full Approval</i>

The provisional site visit was conducted in accordance with the procedures approved by the Commission and the Committee on Accreditation (COA) and outlined in the *Accreditation Handbook*. Los Altos SD submitted a complete Program Review submission, Common Standards submission, and responses to preconditions within the year preceding its provisional site visit. The Board of Institutional Review members assigned to the site visit worked together to review all evidence submitted as part of Program Review and Common Standards review and provided feedback to Los Altos SD regarding its preliminary alignment to the Commission's adopted standards. Staff assigned to the provisional site visit reviewed the institution's responses to preconditions to ensure full alignment.

In February 2026, the institution hosted its provisional site visit and the results of the visit, including the team's findings and accreditation recommendation, are available in the [Report of Provisional Site Visit to COA](#). The team determined that all Common Standards and Teacher Induction program standards were met and recommended full accreditation, which the COA accepted at its March 2026 meeting. The COA then determined to move the institution forward to the Commission for consideration of full institutional approval.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission grant full institutional approval to Los Altos Elementary School District.

Next Steps

If the Commission grants full institutional approval, the Administrator of Accreditation will assign the institution to one of the seven established accreditation cohorts and the institution will participate in all activities of the seven-year accreditation cycle established by the Commission.