
3A

Action

Educator Preparation Committee

Initial Institutional Approval – Stage V: Consideration of Full Approval for Institutions in Provisional Status

Executive Summary: This agenda item presents, as part of the Initial Institutional Approval process, the Committee on Accreditation’s recommendations for accreditation decisions for seven institutions in provisional status. The Commission will consider granting Full Approval to these institutions.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission review the Provisional Site Visit reports, including the Committee on Accreditation’s recommended accreditation decisions, and consider granting Full Approval to all seven institutions included in this agenda item.

Presenters: Hart Boyd and Frances Kellar, Consultants, Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal

Educator Preparation and Advancement

- **Goal 1.** Education 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 Full Approval for Institutions in Provisional Status

Introduction

This agenda item presents, as part of Stage V of the Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process, the report from the Provisional Site Visits and the Committee on Accreditation’s recommended accreditation decisions for the following institutions in provisional status:

- Huntington Beach Union High School District
- Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
- Lake County Office of Education
- Newhall School District
- San Benito County Office of Education
- San Mateo Union High School District
- Yuba City Unified School District

In accordance with the Commission’s approved process (as seen in the chart on page 2), each institution was granted Provisional Approval by the Commission followed by the Committee on Accreditation (COA) approval of the program(s) proposed by the institution. The institutions then began operating the program(s) for a period of time set by the Commission (generally three years) and subsequently hosted a provisional site visit at the end of that time period. As a result of the provisional site visits, each site visit team recommended Accreditation for the institution it reviewed, and the COA accepted the site visit teams’ recommendations. Consistent with the IIA policy adopted by the Commission, the institutions are moving forward to the Commission for consideration of Full 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 Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process. A table detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on page two of this item. Each institution 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 on page three.

Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

The institutions are 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	<i>1. Grant Full Approval 2. Grant Full Approval & Remand to COA to Address Stipulations 3. Continue Provisional Status for 1 Year to Address Stipulations 4. Deny</i>
IIA Status	Not Approved	Not Approved	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval	<i>Full Approval</i>

Initial Institutional Approval Process Timeline

Institution	Stage I: Prerequisites	Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	Stage III: Preconditions and Common Standards	Stage IV: COA Approval of Preparation Program(s)	Provisional Site Visit (PSV) Conducted	Report of PSV to COA
Huntington Beach Union High School District	December 2020	April 2021 Commission Granted Eligibility	June 2021 Commission Granted Provisional Approval	August 2021	March 2025	May 2025
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District	June 2020	February 2021 Commission Granted Eligibility	August 2021 Commission Granted Provisional Approval	October 2021	March 2025	April 2025
Lake County Office of Education	December 2017	August 2019 Commission Granted Eligibility	October 2020 Commission Granted Provisional Approval	August 2021	March 2025	April 2025
Newhall School District	April 2019	April 2020 Commission Granted Eligibility	October 2020 Commission Granted Provisional Approval	August 2021	April 2025	May 2025
San Benito County Office of Education	December 2017	January 2020 Commission Granted Eligibility	August 2020 Commission Granted Provisional Approval	January 2021	January 2025	February 2025 Accreditation with Stipulations May 2025 Accreditation
San Mateo Union High School District	December 2019	April 2020 Commission Granted Eligibility	June 2021 Commission Granted Provisional Approval	October 2021	March 2025	April 2025
Yuba City Unified School District	March 2019	January 2020 Commission Granted Eligibility	June 2020 Commission Granted Provisional Approval	March 2021	March 2025	April 2025

All Provisional Site Visits were conducted in accordance with the procedures approved by the Commission and the COA and outlined in the *Accreditation Handbook*. Each institution 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 each site visit worked together to review all evidence submitted as part of Program Review and Common Standards Review and provided feedback to the institutions regarding their preliminary alignment to the Commission's adopted standards. Staff assigned to the Provisional Site Visit reviewed the institutions' responses to preconditions to ensure full alignment. The teams' findings and accreditation recommendations made as a result of the institutions' Provisional Site Visits are available by clicking the link in the preceding table (*Report of Provisional Site Visit to Committee on Accreditation*).

In all but one case – San Benito County Office of Education – the teams determined that all Common Standards were met, and all program standards were met. As a result, the COA acted to accept each site visit team's recommendation of Accreditation and to forward the institutions to the Commission for consideration for the final step in the IIA process. In the case of San Benito County Office of Education, the site visit team recommended Accreditation with Stipulations which the COA acted to accept at its February 2025 meeting. The institution took steps to immediately address the stipulations, resulting in the COA acting to change its previous decision from Accreditation with Stipulations to Accreditation and forward the institution to the Commission for Full Approval.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review the Provisional Site Visit reports and the response to stipulations, including the Committee on Accreditation's recommended accreditation decisions, and consider granting Full Approval to all seven institutions included in this agenda item.

Next Steps

If the Commission grants Full Approval to the institutions in this agenda item, the Administrator of Accreditation will assign the institutions 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.