

Options for Moving Potential Early Childhood Program Standards Forward to Implementation

Framing Question: How does the Commission know we have quality of preparation for this workforce?

Option 1: Continue the Current VOC Process based on Verification of Units Only

This option would continue the Commission's current VOC practice of verifying coursework titles and minimum units. It would not address issues of program quality and program standards.

Option 2: Revise and Update the Verification of Completion (VOC) Process

Under this option, the draft Program Standards would potentially be adopted by the Commission in place of the current VOC process that involves verification of coursework title and minimum units. Title 5 regulations would need to be written and approved to implement this option. Program providers would need to provide a short response to each preparation standard that would be reviewed by Commission staff, and then would potentially be allowed to recommend candidates for the Permit.

Option 3: Provide a One-Time Peer Review of Current ECE Preparation Programs

Under this option, the Commission could facilitate a one-time statewide peer review of current ECE preparation programs to verify program quality, using the draft Preparation Standards once finalized and adopted by the Commission. This process could potentially result in the Commission allowing programs approved through this process to recommend candidates for the Permit.

Option 4: Develop and Implement an ECE Candidate Performance Assessment

Under this option, the Commission could, if funding were available, develop and implement a candidate performance assessment, similar to the TPA, for all Child Development Permit candidates. This would provide programs a means to assess quality through analysis of the competency status of its candidates with respect to Performance Expectations that would be adopted by the Commission as part of this option. This approach could potentially put a burden on candidates who would have to study for and pay for taking the performance assessment, but would not necessarily have an effect on programs unless the programs were also held to preparing candidates to meet the adopted Performance Expectations through regulation and/or legislation.

Option 5: Legislative Change to Include ECE Preparation Programs in the Accreditation System

Under this option, new legislation could potentially include ECE preparation programs within the Commission's Accreditation System, thus bringing these programs into alignment with all other educator preparation programs. Accredited programs would be allowed to recommend candidates for the Permit. This option would add workload to both Commission staff in the Professional Services and staff of ECE preparation programs that are typically at the Community College and the undergraduate level of the CSU and private institutions, and would reduce workload of the Certification Division.