

## Accreditation

**The Accreditation System is the Commission's means for ensuring that approved programs are preparing educators who are effective and are focused on continuous improvement**

Basic tenets of the accreditation system:

- a. Institutions are held to the adopted standards—both Common and Program—Each standard and each phrase of in each standard
- b. Currently, the institutions are held to meeting the specific language of the standard and there is no attempt to identify excellence beyond meeting the standard
- c. Evidence needs to be provided/collected from multiple sources to support standard decisions and accreditation recommendations
- d. What an institution is asked to do should be beneficial to the institution's educator preparation efforts and the Commission's accreditation- process
- e. When an institution is required to submit something, the submission should be reviewed and feedback provided from the Commission (COA, BIR, staff)
- f. If the CTC has necessary information already, do not request that the institution submit that information again
- g. Many of the activities previously conducted during the 4-day site visit have been distributed across the seven year cycle (Biennial Report, Program Assessment and the shorter site visit)
- h. Only BIR members make standard decisions and accreditation recommendations
- i. Only the COA makes accreditation decisions
- j. Accreditation ensures program quality which leads to better prepared educators

There are clear relationships among

- 1) effort on part of institution—time preparing documents and in preparation for accreditation activities, and effort on part of BIR and CTC staff—to review, understand and evaluate what the institution submits;
- 2) evidence available for review by BIR members and staff, and confidence in BIR member decisions regarding findings on standards and recommendations on accreditation status, which directly impact
- 3) consistency/accuracy of the COA's decisions on accreditation and stipulations

**The system should maximize the reliability, validity and consistency of accreditation decisions while not exceeding a reasonable amount of effort on the part of institutions, members of the BIR, and CTC staff**