

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors March 2020

Overview

This report consists of a recommendation made for the initial approval of a professional preparation program for an institution that recently received Provisional Approval as a new program sponsor in California. Stella Middle Charter Academy (SMCA) received Provisional Approval by the Commission at its [November 2019](#) meeting. SMCA now seeks approval from the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to offer a teacher induction program.

Staff Recommendation

That after discussion with the program sponsor and after the members of the BIR review of the proposed program as well as documentation from the institution submitting the proposal, the COA grant initial accreditation to SMCA's proposed teacher induction program.

Background

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 Institution Approval (IIA) process. At the [December 2015](#) meeting, the Commission approved a new IIA process requiring the satisfactory completion of five approval stages as part of the Strengthening and Streamlining Accreditation project – updates to the IIA process were subsequently approved during the [February 2016](#) meeting. A graphic detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on the following page.

Initial Institutional Approval

IIA Process	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	IV	V
Action	Prerequisites	Eligibility Requirements	Preconditions & Common Standards	Program Standards	Site Visit
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 relevant preconditions Ensures institution meets all Common Standards	Ensures all proposed programs meet all relevant program standards	Program operates for 2-3 years and hosts a focused accreditation site visit
Requirements	Institution must: 1. Have legal eligibility 2. Attend Accreditation 101 with institutional team	Submit responses to: • 12 Eligibility Criteria	Submit responses to: • Preconditions • Common Standards	Submit responses to: • Program Standards	Institution must: • Collect data • Host focused site visit
Reviewed By	Staff	Staff	Preconditions: Staff Common Standards: BIR	BIR	Site Visit Team
Authority	Staff	Commission	Commission	COA	Commission
Decision	Determine Eligibility for Stage II	Eligibility: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Provisional Approval: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Program(s): 1. Approve 2. Deny	1. Grant Full approval 2. Retain Provisional Approval with Additional Requirements 3. Deny Approval
IIA Status*	Not Approved	Not Approved	Provisional Approval**	Provisional Approval***	Full Approval

At conclusion of stage **Institutionally-approved but cannot offer programs *May begin offering approved programs*

Stella Middle Charter Academy

SMCA has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	December 2016 – Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	February 2019 – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	November 2019 – Granted Provisional Approval

SMCA’s responses to the teacher induction program standards were reviewed by a team of Board of Institutional Review members. Reviewers collaborated on the feedback and found all standards to be Met. Below is a summary of SMCA’s responses to the proposed teacher induction program standards. The following hyperlink provides access to [SMCA’s complete submission and the reviewers’ Report of Findings](#).

Stella Middle Charter Academy-Teacher Induction

The “Greater Los Angeles Schools Teacher Induction Consortium” will be a two-year, job embedded induction program offered by Stella Middle Charter Academy. Candidates will be paired with a highly trained mentor who will guide them through the development and implementation of their individual learning plan. With guidance from their mentor and input from their administrator, candidates will set individualized goals in connection with the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. With their mentors, candidates will engage in inquiry cycles in order to move forward towards their goals. Together, candidates and mentors will analyze student learning, lesson plan, engage in observation cycles, engage in other activities related to candidates' goals and continually reflect on teacher performance and growth. The goals of the induction program are to support growth along the California Standards for the Teaching Profession, develop curious, reflective and persistent educators, and to retain teachers in the profession.