

# Discussion on the Proposed Changes in Language for Initial Program Preconditions June 2020

## Overview of this Report

At the January 2020 Commission meeting, public comment raised concern regarding the first Initial Program Precondition, **Demonstration of Need**. Subsequently, staff reviewed both of the Initial Program Preconditions and has prepared proposed revisions to the language of both preconditions for the Committee's discussion. At the [March 2020](#) Committee on Accreditation meeting, staff presented an item that discussed the two Initial Program Preconditions and proposed language. Staff subsequently prepared an agenda item for the [June Commission meeting](#). An update of the discussion and action taken at the June Commission meeting is provided in this item.

## Recommendation

This item is for information only. No action is required.

## Background

Preconditions are defined as requirements in Education Code, the California Code of Regulations, or Commission policy that must be met for an institution to be eligible to offer a Commission-approved educator preparation program. Programs seeking approval must first respond to two Initial Program Preconditions. Once approved, educator preparation programs respond to General and program-specific preconditions in years one and four of the seven-year accreditation cycle.

During the March Committee on Accreditation meeting, committee members focused on the second of the two proposed precondition and emphasized the need for collaboration between institutions of higher education and local education agencies, irrespective of who is proposing the new program. The collaboration is intended to be an authentic collaboration that begins at program design, continues with program implementation, and the institution's continuous improvement process. Staff took this feedback and revised the proposed language for the two Initial Program Preconditions and presented to the Commission for discussion at its June meeting.

## Proposed Language for Initial Program Preconditions

**(1) Demonstration of Need.** To be granted initial program accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation, the program proposal must include a demonstration of the need for the type of program in the region in which it will operate or a need for educators prepared through a specific program delivery model. Proposals must include data on the number of individuals currently serving on less than full credentials in the region of the proposed program and a projected need based on a needs analysis, a need for a program operated through a specific delivery model such as a residency, projected student growth

in the region, and affirmations from employers in the region that provide their anticipated hiring need in the credential category.

**(2) Collaboration in Program Design and Implementation.** To be granted initial program accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation, the program proposal must include evidence of collaboration between postsecondary education institutions, employers of credentialed educators, and K-12 practitioners in the design of the program, and verification that they will be involved in the implementation of the program and are committed to the implementation and continuous improvement of the proposed educator preparation program.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will collect feedback from stakeholders and bring the item with revised Precondition language back to the Commission for possible adoption. In addition, if the Initial Program Preconditions are adopted by the Commission at a future meeting, staff will begin the process to put the Initial Program Preconditions into Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.