

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors January 2021

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. San Benito County Office of Education (SBCOE), a local employing agency, received Provisional Approval by the Commission at its [August 2020](#) meeting. SBCOE now seeks approval from the COA to offer a teacher induction program.

Staff Recommendation

That after discussion with the program sponsor, review of the Board of Institutional Review (BIR) members' feedback, and review of the of the proposed program proposal documentation, the COA grant initial program approval to the 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

San Benito County Office of Education

The San Benito County Office of Education has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	December 2017 – Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	January 2020 – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	August 2020 – Granted Provisional Approval

As previously noted, SBCOE appeared before the Commission at its August 2020 meeting and its proposal for Provisional Approval was approved. SBCOE’s responses to the teacher induction program standards were reviewed by a team of BIR members. Reviewers collaborated on the feedback and found all standards to be **Met**. Below is a summary of SBCOE’s responses to the teacher induction program standards. The following hyperlinks provide access to SBCOE’s [complete submission](#) and the reviewers’ [Report of Findings](#).

Institution Summary

The San Benito County Office of Education (SBCOE) proposes to offer a teacher induction program to serve the eleven districts in San Benito County, all of whom must participate in out-of-county programs currently. The two-year, job-embedded program utilizes a system of support that includes a trained induction coach (mentor), program advisor, and site administrator, who work collectively to promote teacher development. Each teacher will be provided with an induction coach to guide the candidate in developing and implementing an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to meet the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP). In addition to identifying and participating in professional development opportunities, candidates will complete interactive online modules that use the inquiry cycle to engage in activities that promote reflection on their own professional growth. Growth on CSTPs will be measured through candidates’ self-assessments on the Continuum of Teaching Practice, mid-year and end-of-year ILP reviews, and the verification of satisfactory completion of each element by the program advisor. SBCOE’s goal is to advance student learning by supporting and retaining new teachers as they grow in their professional practice and transform into life-long, reflective practitioners.