

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors

March 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. The Yuba City Unified School District (YCUSD), a local education agency, received Provisional Approval by the Commission at its August 2020 meeting (see [Agenda Item 2F](#)). YCUSD, as part of Stage IV of the Initial Institutional Approval process, now seeks approval from the COA to offer a teacher induction program.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that after discussion with the program sponsor, review of the Board of Institutional Review (BIR) team members' feedback, and review of the Stage IV documentation, the COA grant initial program approval to the YCUSD'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 by completing the Commission's Initial Institution Approval (IIA) process. At the December 2015 meeting, as part of the Strengthening and Streamlining Accreditation project, the Commission approved a new IIA process requiring the satisfactory completion of five approval stages. Updates to the IIA process were subsequently approved during the February 2017 meeting. A chart detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on the last page.

Yuba City Unified School District

The Yuba City Unified School District has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	March 2019 – Attended Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	January 2020 (Agenda Item 2A) – Granted Eligibility by the Commission
Stage III: Preconditions and Common Standards	June 2020 (Agenda Item 2F) – Granted Provisional Approval by the Commission

YCUSD’s responses to the teacher induction program standards were reviewed by a team of BIR members who collaborated on the feedback and found all standards to be **Met**. Both the reviewers’ Report of Findings and the institution’s Stage IV submission can be found the [YCUSD’s IIA Stage IV webpage](#). Below is a summary of YCUSD’s responses to the teacher induction program standards.

Institution Summary

The Yuba City Unified School District Induction Program is a job-embedded professional learning experience that is designed to support candidates who hold a preliminary single subject, multiple subject or education specialist credential. Through a system of support that includes an induction mentor, a program coordinator and site administrator, it is a two-year program of extended preparation and professional learning activities that builds upon the skills developed in preliminary preparation programs. Candidates will be paired with a highly trained induction mentor who will guide the development and implementation of an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to meet the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP). With their mentors, candidates will pursue ILP goals and action plans engaging in inquiry cycles that promote reflection on their professional growth. Growth on the CSTP will be measured through candidates’ self-assessment on the Continuum of Teaching Practice, midyear, and end-of-year ILP reviews, and the verification of satisfactory completion by the program coordinator and the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. Yuba City Unified School District’s goal is to advance student learning by supporting and retaining new teachers as they grow and transform into lifelong reflective practitioners.

Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

The Yuba City Unified School District is seeking initial program approval as indicated in the Stage IV column of the chart below.

IIA Process	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage V
Action	Prerequisites	Eligibility Requirements	Preconditions & Common Standards	Program Standards	Provisional 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 2-4 years and hosts a provisional 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 provisional site visit
Reviewed By	Staff	Staff	Preconditions: Staff Common Standards: BIR	BIR	Site Visit Team and COA
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