

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors Lake County Office of Education August 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. Lake County Office of Education (LCOE), a local education agency, received Provisional Approval by the Commission at its [October 2020](#) meeting. LCOE, as part of Stage IV of the Initial Institutional Approval process, now seeks approval from the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to offer a Preliminary Multiple Subject Intern program.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that after discussion with the program sponsor, review of the Board of Institutional Review (BIR) members' feedback, and review of the proposed program documentation, the COA grant initial program approval to LCOE's Preliminary Multiple Subject Intern program. Should the COA approve the program, the program may begin operating and, in accordance with Commission action to grant the institution provisional status at the conclusion of Stage III, a site visit will be scheduled in approximately three years.

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 Institutional 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 distinct and progressive 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 of this item.

Lake County Office of Education (LCOE)

LCOE 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	August 2019 – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	October 2020 – Granted Provisional Approval

LCOE’s responses to the Preliminary Multiple Subject 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 LCOE’s responses to the proposed Preliminary Multiple Subject program standards. The following hyperlink provides access to [LCOE’s complete submission](#) and the [reviewers’ Report of Findings](#). Initial, program, and intern preconditions were reviewed by staff and summarized in the [October 2020](#) Commission agenda item.

Institution Summary

The program design of the Teach Lake County Multiple Subject Intern program, sponsored by the Lake County Office of Education, is grounded in current, research-based theories about teaching and learning. The required curriculum is sequenced for intern candidates and the courses are designed to introduce the knowledge and skills defined by the Commission-approved Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs). The curriculum also provides multiple opportunities to practice these skills within the context of the intern’s own classroom, providing a strong coursework-fieldwork connection. Focus areas of trauma and poverty-informed instruction are interwoven throughout the pre-service and regular coursework to prepare candidates for the student population in the region as well as the state of California. Specially designed courses within the curriculum provide support and guidance as each candidate prepares to engage in the required tasks of the Commission-approved CalTPA model, which the program has chosen to score using the centralized option. Trained district-employed intern mentors and program field supervisors provide support and guidance to candidates as they demonstrate their knowledge and skills, using several TPE-based program assessment tools. Program leaders carefully monitor candidate progress throughout the intern experience and strive to ensure that each candidate receives the appropriate levels of support to successfully complete the program and earn a Preliminary Multiple Subject credential. There is an extreme shortage of highly qualified, skilled teachers within the districts of Lake County and the surrounding region, and the initiation of the Teach Lake County intern program will assist in preparing effective teachers for those classrooms.

Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

Lake County Office of Education (LCOE) 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. Grant Full Approval, Remand to COA to Address Stipulations 3. Continue Provisional Status for 1 Year to Address Stipulations 4. Deny
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