

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors 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. The Newhall School District (Newhall SD), a local education agency, received Provisional Approval by the Commission at its October 2020 meeting (see [Agenda Item 2E](#)). The Newhall SD, as part of Stage IV of the Initial Institutional Approval process, now seeks approval from the Committee on Accreditation (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 Newhall SD's proposed Teacher Induction 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 and must do so by completing the Commission's Initial Institutional 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 of the Accreditation system project. 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.

Newhall School District

The Newhall 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	April 2020 (Agenda Item 4D) – Granted Eligibility by the Commission
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	October 2020 (Agenda Item 2E) – Granted Provisional Approval by the Commission

The Newhall SD’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 [Newhall SD's IIA webpage](#).

Institution Summary

The Newhall School District proposes to offer a Teacher Induction program to serve the four school districts and two private schools located in the Santa Clarita Valley. This two-year, job-embedded program, housed within the Human Resources department, will provide the opportunity for participating teachers who hold a Preliminary Single Subject, Preliminary Multiple Subject, or Preliminary Education Specialist credential with the pathway to clear their credential. Using a system of support that will include a highly-qualified mentor, site administrator, and program coordinator, new teachers will build upon their knowledge by participating in a robust, reflective, and individualized induction process. Growth on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP) will be measured through the candidates’ self-assessments on the Continuum of Teaching Practice, mid-year and end-of-the-year Individual Learning Plan (ILP) reviews, and verification of satisfactory completion of the program by the lead mentors and the Induction Program Coordinator. Newhall School District’s goal is to retain new teachers by supporting their development of a continuous system of inquiry, reflection, and growth grounded in the CSTP and focused through the lens of student learning outcomes.

Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

The Newhall 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. 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