

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors

October 2021

Overview

This report consists of a recommendation for the Initial Program Approval of a professional preparation program which will be sponsored by the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD). SMUHSD is a local education agency currently in the Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process. At the Commission's June 2021 meeting, SMUHSD was granted Provisional Approval as a new program sponsor in California (see [Agenda Item 4G](#)). As part of Stage IV of the IIA process, SMUHSD 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 SMUHSD'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 provisional site visit will be scheduled in three years.

Background

The Commission requires that an institution seeking to offer new educator preparation program(s) must first be approved as a new program sponsor and must do so by completing the Commission's Initial Institution Approval (IIA) process. At its 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 by the Commission during its February 2017 meeting. A chart detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on the last page of this item.

San Mateo Union High School District

SMUHSD has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	December 2019 –Attendance of Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	April 2020 (Agenda Item 4E) – Granted Eligibility by the Commission
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	June 2021 (Agenda Item 4G) – Granted Provisional Approval by the Commission

SMUHSD’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**. On [SMUHSD’s Induction Program Accreditation webpage](#), both the reviewers’ Report of Findings (titled SMUHSD Program Standards Feedback) and the institution’s Stage IV submission (titled Induction Program Standards) are available. Below is a summary of the SMUHSD’s responses to the Teacher Induction Program Standards.

Institution Summary

The San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) Induction Program will be a two-year, job-embedded professional learning experience designed to support Preliminary Single Subject and Preliminary Education Specialists in attaining a clear credential. The SMUHSD Induction Program is grounded in research-based practices to support new teacher development, and development of mentors in supporting novice teachers. Site administrators will work in consultation with the Program Manager to assign site-based, credential-matched mentors to candidates and also work to align mentor and candidate schedules to ensure collaborative support time is embedded within the contract day. During embedded collaboration time, mentors will guide candidates through the development of a system of support, provide just-in-time coaching around emerging growth areas, and create and implement an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). Also, SMUHSD provides professional learning to employees of the district that aligns to the district’s instructional priorities, including workshops specifically designed to support all newly hired teachers. Mentors and candidates will collaboratively pursue ILP goals through the selection of inquiry cycle activities that promote professional learning, self-reflection, and growth toward the CSTP. Growth toward the CSTP will be measured through candidates’ CSTP Self-Assessment and reflection, ILP activities, mentor observations, Program Manager observations, and program completion requirements. SMUHSD’s vision is to develop and retain teachers who can provide students with safe, equitable, relevant, and rigorous learning environments.

Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

The San Mateo Union High 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 institution hosts a provisional 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	Provisional Site Visit Team & 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 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

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors Livermore Joint Unified School District October 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. Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), an LEA, received Provisional Approval from the Commission at its [August 2021](#) meeting. LVJUSD, 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) members' feedback, and review of the of the proposed program documentation, the COA grant initial program approval to LVJUSD'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 approval 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, the Commission approved a new IIA process requiring the satisfactory completion of five distinct and progressive stages as part of the Strengthening and Streamlining Accreditation project. Updates to the IIA process were subsequently approved during the February 2017 Commission meeting. A graphic detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided at the end of this agenda item.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	6/18/2020 – Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	February 2021 – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	August 2021 – Granted Provisional Institutional Approval

As previously stated, LVJUSD received Provisional Approval at the August 2021 Commission meeting and is now seeking Initial Program Approval. LVJUSD's responses to the Teacher Induction program standards were reviewed by a team of Board of Institutional Review (BIR) members who collaborated on the feedback and found all standards to be **Met**. The following hyperlinks provide access to [all of LVJUSD's IIA submissions](#) and the BIR reviewers [Report of Findings](#).

Institution Summary

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) is seeking approval to become the program sponsor for the Tri-Valley Teacher Induction Program (TVTIP) consortium for candidates who hold preliminary Single Subject, Multiple Subject, and/or Education Specialist credentials. LVJUSD had been a member of an induction consortium lead by Pleasanton Unified School District since 2003. With the full implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) in 2019-20, the lead agency changed their funding, which prompted the dissolution of the consortium. After the end of that consortium in 2019, a task force from LVJUSD explored induction structures and in February 2020, decided that Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) would pursue its own accreditation. With neighboring districts still interested in a partnership, LVJUSD decided it would serve as the program sponsor for the revamped Tri-Valley Teacher Induction Program (TVTIP) consortium, made up of Livermore, Castro Valley, and Dublin Unified School Districts. Over the past year, consortium leaders have fully collaborated as they determined theoretical foundations, policies and procedures, and aligned the program to all CTC criteria in preceding Initial Institutional Approval Stages.

LVJUSD's Tri-Valley Teacher Induction Program (TVTIP) will support candidate development and growth by providing a two-year, job-embedded professional learning experience that includes a balance of just-in-time and long-term support from qualified, fully-released, coaches and guided by an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The fully-released coach model allows candidates to receive continuous support at any time in the instructional day as the candidates work toward their professional growth goals. Growth on both individual goals and the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTPs) will be measured through the two candidate/coach co-assessments on the Continuum of Teaching Practice for each Cycle of Inquiry (beginning and year-end ILP reviews). Completion of program and CTC requirements will be determined by coaches and verified by the relevant Induction Program Coordinator as well as the TVTIP Director.

Initial Institutional Approval: Five Stages Chart

Huntington Beach Union High School District is seeking approval of Stage IV as highlighted in 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*