

# Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors May 2022

## Overview

This report consists of a recommendation for the Initial Program Approval of an educator preparation program which will be sponsored by Folsom Cordova Unified School District (FCUSD). FCUSD is a local education agency currently in the Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process. At the Commission's [June 2021](#) meeting, FCUSD was granted Provisional Approval as a new program sponsor in California. As part of Stage IV of the IIA process, FCUSD now seeks Initial Program 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 FCUSD'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 at the conclusion of IIA 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 Institutional Approval (IIA) process. At its December 2015 meeting, the Commission approved a new IIA process requiring the satisfactory completion of five stages as part of the Strengthening and Streamlining of the Accreditation system project. Updates to the IIA process were subsequently approved at the Commission's February 2017 meeting. A chart detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on the last page of this item.

## Folsom Cordova Unified School District

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

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	December 2018
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	<a href="#">August 2019</a>
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	<a href="#">June 2021</a>

FCUSD'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, FCUSD's website, both the reviewers' [Report of Findings](#) and the institution's [Stage IV submission](#) are available. Below is a summary of FCUSD's responses to the Teacher Induction Program Standards.

### Institution Summary

Folsom Cordova Unified School District (FCUSD) proposes to offer a Teacher Induction program to serve the teachers at the 35 schools in the district. The two-year, job-embedded program will utilize a system of support that includes a trained induction coach (mentor), program coordinator and site administrator, who will 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 tasks that use the inquiry cycle to engage in activities that promote reflection on their own professional growth. Growth on the 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 task by the program coordinator. FCUSD's goal is to advance student learning by supporting and retaining new teachers as they grow in their professional practice and transform into lifelong, reflective practitioners.

### Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

FCUSD 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
<b>Purpose</b>	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
<b>Requirements</b>	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
<b>Reviewed By</b>	Staff	Staff	Preconditions: Staff Common Standards: BIR	BIR	Provisional Site Visit Team & COA
<b>Authority</b>	Staff	Commission	Commission	COA	Commission
<b>Decision</b>	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
<b>IIA Status*</b>	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