

**Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors**  
**Santa Maria Bonita School District**  
**August 2022**

**Overview**

This report consists of a recommendation for the initial approval of a professional preparation program for an institution that recently received Provisional Approval as a new program sponsor in California. Santa Maria Bonita School District (SMBSD), an LEA, received Provisional Approval from the Commission at its [June 2022](#) meeting. SMBSD, 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 SMBSD’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 an 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.

**Santa Maria Bonita School District**

Santa Maria Bonita School District (SMBSD) has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Date</b>
Stage I: Prerequisites	11/30/21– Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	<a href="#">April 2022</a> – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	<a href="#">June 2022</a> – Granted Provisional Approval

As previously stated, SMBSD received Provisional Approval at the June 2022 Commission meeting and is now seeking Initial Program Approval. SMBSD'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 SMBSD's [Stage IV submission](#) and the BIR reviewers [Report of Findings](#).

### **Institution Summary**

The Santa Maria Bonita School District Teacher Induction Program is a two-year, job embedded professional learning program which will allow teachers with a Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Educational Specialist Teaching Credential to earn a Clear Teaching Credential. This program will provide personalized mentoring and support for new teacher candidates to build on the knowledge and skills gained during their preliminary preparation program.

The SMBSD Teacher Induction Program focuses on a mentoring relationship guiding candidates through an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) which includes goal setting with the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP), thoughtful cycles of inquiry, and just-in-time support paired with high quality professional development. Mentors will scaffold candidate support while building the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to become lifelong learners of teaching and learning. At mid-year and end of the year, candidates will be required to reflect, in writing, on the progress they have made toward their ILP goals, noting successes and actionable next steps. Mentors and candidates will also assess progress towards mastery of the CSTPs twice a year. Upon successful completion of all required milestones, candidates will be eligible for recommendation for a Clear Teaching Credential.

### Initial Institutional Approval: Five Stages Chart

Santa Maria Bonita 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
<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 hosts a provisional accreditation 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	Site Visit Team and 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
<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