

Initial Program Approval for New Program Sponsors Gateway High School October 2022

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. Gateway High School (GHS), an LEA, received Provisional Approval from the Commission at its [August 2022](#) meeting. GHS, 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 GHS' 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.

Gateway High School

Gateway High School (GHS) has completed the first three stages of the Initial Institutional Approval process as follows:

Stage	Date
Stage I: Prerequisites	December 2020 – Accreditation 101
Stage II: Eligibility Requirements	June 2022 – Granted Eligibility
Stage III: Preconditions & Common Standards	August 2022 – Granted Provisional Approval

As previously stated, GHS received Provisional Approval at the [August 2022](#) Commission meeting and is now seeking Initial Program Approval. GHS's responses to the 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 [GHS's submissions](#) and the [BIR reviewers feedback](#).

Institution Summary

The Gateway Teacher Induction Program will be a two-year, job embedded professional learning program that allows teachers with a Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Educational Specialist Teaching Credential to earn a Clear Teaching Credential. The Gateway Teacher Induction Program will be dedicated to improving public education by preparing reflective, equity-centered practitioners. Gateway Teacher Induction sees teachers as agents of transformative change in schools and our approach to educator preparation and professional learning incorporates five principles: teachers as reflective practitioners, self-agency agency and a growth mindset, equity-focused teaching and learning, collaborative learning, as well as inquiry-based learning and growth.

The Gateway Teacher Induction Program will provide personalized mentoring and support for new teacher candidates to build on the knowledge and skills gained during their preliminary preparation program by engaging teacher candidates in an individualized and reflective Individual Learning Plan (ILP) process that facilitates and fosters professional learning and growth. With an emphasis on equity, teacher candidates and mentors will build trusting relationships, and will collaboratively identify, navigate, and address teaching and learning complexities, biases, and impact, so that all students can experience an equitable, high-quality education.

Initial Institutional Approval: Five Stages Chart

Gateway High School 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