



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: Q

Date: March 28, 2024

Title: Report of the Biennial Approval of Education Endorsement Programs as Required by the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*

Presenter: Robert Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Education Preparation

Purpose of Presentation

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Executive Summary

The Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia ([8VAC20-543](#)) require institutions of higher education (IHEs) to meet and report on Standards for Biennial Approval of Education Endorsement Programs. Programs are reviewed biennially and must demonstrate achievement of the accountability measures set forth in the Virginia Board of Education's *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* ([8VAC20-543](#)).

The approval of programs aligns with the goal of the Virginia Board of Education ("Board") to advance policies that increase the number of candidates entering the teaching profession, encourage and support the recruitment, development, and retention of well-prepared and skilled teachers and school leaders. The education endorsement programs in Virginia shall be approved by the Board and demonstrate achievement biennially of the accountability measures in this section. The institution of higher education must report evidence of the standards for Board's review biennially.

The 2021-2023 Biennial Report specifically addresses the progress of the institutions of higher education in achieving accountability measures 1 through 7 for the biennial reporting period of September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2023. The Virginia Department of Education ("VDOE")

requested that each institution complete and return the following three documents to report its progress in achieving accountability measures 1 through 7 for the current biennial reporting period:

- Certification for Standard 1– Assessment Passing Rates;
- Certification for Standards 2 through 7; and
- Affidavit for Standards 1 through 7.

Accountability Measure 1 stipulates “candidate progress and performance on prescribed licensure assessments. ... Achievement of an 80 percent biennial passing rate shall be required by July 1, 2010. Candidates completing a program shall have successfully completed all coursework, required assessments, including those prescribed by the Board of Education, and supervised student teaching or internship. Candidates completing a program shall have successfully completed all coursework, regardless of whether the individuals attempted, passed, or failed required assessments, including those prescribed by the Board of Education, and/or who may not have completed supervised student teaching or required internship.”

All programs met the 80 percent pass rate for assessments required by Accountability Measure 1 (See Appendix C). Not all candidates were required by the institution to take the assessment; however, candidates who took the test met the passing score.

For Accountability Measures 2-7, all institutions of higher education submitted a status result of “MET” for programs approved prior to September 1, 2021, and for which there was at least one program completer or program noncompleter for the current biennial reporting period (See Appendix D). Attachment A is the Biennial Report: 2021-2023 Approved Teacher Education Programs Compliance-Accountability Measurements 1 through 7.

Action Requested

No action requested.

Background Information and Statutory Authority

The request for new education endorsement programs in Virginia shall be approved by the Board ([8VAC20-543-30](#)) and demonstrate achievement biennially of the accountability measures in this section. The *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* ([8VAC20-543](#)) require IHEs to meet and report on Standards for Biennial Approval of Education Endorsement Programs. Programs are reviewed biennially and must demonstrate achievement of the accountability measures set forth in the *Board’s Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* ([8VAC20-543](#)).

Attachment A is the *Biennial Report: 2021-2023 Approved Teacher Education Programs Compliance-Accountability Measurements 1 through 7*.

The Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia (8VAC20-543) did not become effective until August 23, 2018; therefore, institutions of higher education were requested to report data based on the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia (8VAC20-542) that were in effect in 2017.

The Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia, in part, stipulate the following:

8VAC20-542-20. administering the regulations.

D. Institutions of higher education seeking approval of an education program shall be accredited by a regional accrediting agency....

H. Education programs shall be approved under these regulations biennially based on compliance with the criteria described in 8VAC20-542-40....

M. Modifications may be made by the Superintendent of Public Instruction in the administration of these regulations. Proposed modifications shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of Virginia.

8VAC20-542-40. Standards for biennial approval of education programs.

...that approved education programs in Virginia shall have national accreditation...and demonstrate achievement biennially of the following accountability measures:

- 1. Candidate progress and performance on prescribed Board of Education licensure assessments. Candidate passing rates, reported by percentages, shall not fall below 70% biennially for individuals completing and exiting the program. Achievement of an 80% biennial passing rate shall be required by July 1, 2010. Candidates completing a program shall have successfully completed all coursework, required assessments, including those prescribed by the Board of Education, and supervised student teaching or internship.*

Candidates exiting a program shall have successfully completed all coursework, regardless of whether the individuals attempted, passed, or failed required assessments, including those prescribed by the Board of Education, and/or who may not have completed supervised student teaching or required internship.

2. *Candidate progress and performance on an assessment of basic skills as prescribed by the Board of Education for individuals seeking entry into an approved education preparation program.*
3. *Structured and integrated field experiences to include student teaching requirements.*
4. *Evidence of opportunities for candidates to participate in diverse school settings that provide experiences with populations that include racial, economic, linguistic, and ethnic diversity throughout the program experiences.*
5. *Evidence of contributions to PreK-12 student achievement by candidates completing the program.*
6. *Evidence of employer job satisfaction with candidates completing the program.*
7. *Partnerships and collaborations based on PreK-12 school needs.*

8VAC20-542-50. Application of the standards.

A. As a prerequisite to program approval, professional education programs in Virginia shall have national accreditation or be accredited by a process approved by the Board of Education as prescribed in 8VAC20-542-30 and 8VAC20-542-60. Failure to do so will result in the education program being designated as “approval denied.”

B. The education program’s candidate passing rates shall not fall below 70% biennially for individuals completing and exiting the program. Achievement of an 80% biennial passing rate for individuals completing and exiting the program shall be required by July 1, 2010.

C. The education program is responsible to certify documented evidence that the following standards as set forth in 8VAC20-542-40 have been met:

- 1. The education program shall demonstrate candidate progress and performance on an assessment of basic skills as prescribed by the Board of Education for individuals seeking entry into an approved education preparation program.*
- 2. The education program shall provide structured and integrated field experiences.*
- 3. The education program shall provide evidence of opportunities for candidates to participate in diverse school settings that provide experiences with populations that*

include racial, economic, linguistic, and ethnic diversity throughout the program experiences.

4. The education program shall provide evidence of contributions to PreK-12 student achievement by candidates completing the program.

5. The education program shall provide evidence of employer job satisfaction with candidates completing the program.

D. The education program shall develop biennial accountability measures to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Education for partnerships and collaborations based on PreK-12 school needs.

E. After submitting to the Department of Education the information contained in 8VAC20-542-50, education programs in Virginia shall receive one of the following three ratings:

1. Approved. The education program has met all standards set forth in 8VAC20-542-40.

2. Approved with stipulations. The education program has met standards in subsections A and B of this section and is making documented progress toward meeting standards in subsections C and D of this section.

3. Approval denied. The education program has not met standards in subsections A and B of this section. The program shall be denied and the public notified. The program may resubmit a request for approval at the end of the next biennial period....

All programs met the 80 percent pass rate for assessments required by Accountability Measure 1 (See Appendix C). For Accountability Measures 2-7, all institutions of higher education submitted a status result of MET for programs approved prior to September 1, 2021, and for which there was at least one program completer or program noncompleter for the current biennial reporting period (See Appendix D).

The current regulations set forth a process for institutions with education endorsement programs that fall below the 80 percent biennial requirement. Institutions shall submit to the Board of Education for approval an improvement plan to address the areas of stipulation, including measurable goals and timelines. Semi-annual reports must be submitted to the Director of Teacher Education to document the progress in addressing the goals toward elimination of the stipulation. No programs fell below the 80 percent requirement this biennial reporting period.

The following excerpt from the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* outlines requirements if a program is approved with stipulations.

8VAC20-543-50. Application of Standards for Biennial Approval of Education Endorsement Programs

...D. After submitting to the Department of Education the information contained in [8VAC20-543-40](#), education endorsement programs in Virginia shall receive one of the following three ratings:

1. Approved. The education endorsement program has met all standards set forth in [8VAC20-543-40](#).
2. Approved with stipulations. The education endorsement program has met standards in subsections A and B of this section and is making documented progress toward meeting standards in subsection C of this section. Institutions with education endorsements programs that fall below the 80 percent biennial requirement shall submit to the Board of Education for approval an improvement plan to address the areas of stipulation, including measurable goals and timelines. Semiannual reports must be submitted to the Director of Teacher Education to document the progress in addressing the goals toward elimination of the stipulation until the next biennial review period. The biennial passing rates that fall below the 80 percent requirement for program completers and noncompleters shall result in the education endorsement program receiving a rating of "approved with stipulations." The passing rate for program completers and noncompleters must meet the 80 percent passing rate requirement by the end of the next biennial period for the program to be approved; if the 80% pass rate is not achieved, the program will be denied. However, if the education endorsement program has less than 10 program completers and noncompleters, the institution must submit an annual report attesting to continued progress in meeting the requirements.
2. Approval denied. Approval may be denied if:
 - a. The education endorsement program has not met standards in subsection A of this section; or
 - b. The education endorsement program has met standards in subsection A of this section but has not met requirements in subsection B of this section for two consecutive

biennial reporting periods. The program shall be denied and the public notified. The program may resubmit a request for approval at the end of the next biennial period.

On January 8, 2024, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure approved the following recommendations to the Board of Education to grant:

1. “Approved” status to all Virginia college and university education (endorsement) programs listed in the attached 2021-2023 Biennial Report.

Stakeholder Engagement

The report was reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board of Teacher Education and Licensure on January 8, 2024.

Implementation and Communication

Following the Board’s decision, the institutions will be notified, and the programs will be posted on the VDOE’s website.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

The administrative impact will be absorbed within existing resources.