



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT
OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of an Extension of the Moratorium on Granting Preliminary Approval to Institutions for Initial Preparation of Teachers from August 1, 2008 through July 30, 2011

On August 9, 2005 the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the moratorium on the preliminary approval to institutions for initial preparation of teachers.

The approval process, as approved by the SBE for institutions new to teacher preparation, consists of three steps:

- 1) Preliminary approval permits the institution to begin the development of a program.
- 2) Probationary approval permits the institution to recommend candidates for teacher certification.
- 3) Final approval indicates that the institution has met all requirements, can operate independently, and will be subject to the same accountability and review process required of all other Michigan teacher preparation institutions.

The application form for new institutions, which includes information on the approval process, can be viewed at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/TPI_Standards,_Requirements,_&_Procedures_for_Initial_Approval_74807_7.PDF

Currently, four institutions are developing programs under conditions of preliminary or limited probationary approval granted by the SBE (Attachment A). Each institution receives guidance from a state-approved institution serving as a mentor that will recommend the institution's new candidates for teacher certification until the SBE grants probationary approval.

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For each of the four programs, the SBE has named a five-member Committee of Scholars (COS) to review proposed programs, visit the campus, interview candidates, faculty, and others connected with the program, and make approval recommendations to the SBE. MDE staff provide guidance to the institutions seeking approval and to the COS team.

A recent review of teacher preparation candidates indicates that Michigan institutions recommended 7,800 candidates for certification in 2006-2007. Approximately 2,298, or 30%, were employed by Michigan school districts or schools. Those new teachers who are not employed by Michigan schools either leave the state for teaching jobs elsewhere or seek other forms of employment. Given the decline in employment of new teachers, current local district budget shortfalls, and proposed teacher layoffs throughout the state, the current supply of teachers appears to exceed the demand.

In 2006 the University of Phoenix withdrew from the approval process and Rochester College received probationary approval from the SBE. Michigan currently has 32 institutions preparing teachers: 15 public and 17 independent. The four or more years spent working with new institutions limits staff focus on quality initiatives with currently approved institutions, including work on standards for specialty programs and the accreditation of current teacher preparation programs.

The SBE is asked to extend the moratorium on new requests from institutions for preliminary approval from August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2011. This will allow time for staff to assist institutions that are currently in preliminary or probationary approval as they continue the development of quality teacher preparation programs. An institution could appeal the moratorium if it identifies extenuating circumstances, or if its proposed programs were to address a special need or shortage area in Michigan.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the extension of the moratorium on granting preliminary approval to institutions for the initial preparation of teachers from August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2011, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 28, 2008.

Institutions Operating Under Preliminary or Limited Probationary Approval July 2008		
Institutions	Current Status	Comments
Baker College (BC)	Preliminary approval was granted by SBE in September 2001. A Committee of Scholars (COS) was appointed by the SBE in October 2003. An application for probationary approval was submitted by BC in March 2005; the COS reviewed the application, proposed programs, the institution, and returned its recommendations to BC for implementation.	9 campuses. Madonna University is mentoring BC and recommends BC candidates for certification until the SBE grants probationary approval.
College for Creative Studies (CCS)	Preliminary approval was granted by the SBE in May 2003. A COS was appointed by the SBE in August 2007.	Marygrove College is mentoring CCS and recommends CCS candidates for certification until the SBE grants probationary approval.
Finlandia University (FU)	Preliminary approval was granted by the SBE in June 2001. A COS was appointed by the SBE in September 2001. An application for probationary approval was submitted in 2002; the university is currently developing policy and practices to respond to the issues identified by the COS.	Concordia University is mentoring FU and recommends currently enrolled FU candidates for certification until the SBE grants probationary approval.
Miller College (MC)	Preliminary approval was granted by the SBE in August 2004. A COS was appointed by the SBE in January 2005. An application for probationary approval was submitted in June 2008.	Aquinas College is mentoring MC and recommends MC candidates for certification until the SBE grants probationary approval.

Note: Other institutions that have expressed interest in exploring options for teacher preparation include Davenport College, William Tyndale College, Lawrence Technical University, Grace Bible College, and the Center for Humanistic Studies. Several out-of-state institutions have inquired about the process for establishing Michigan status.