



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2019
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Sheila A. Alles, Chairperson 
SUBJECT: Approval of the Extension of the Moratorium on Granting Preliminary Approval to Educator Preparation Institutions in Michigan

On August 9, 2005, the State Board of Education (SBE) implemented a moratorium on granting preliminary approval to new Educator Preparation Institutions (EPIs) in Michigan. The SBE extended the moratorium in August 2008, June 2012, October 2015, and for six months in October 2018. The most recent extension expired on April 13, 2019.

The moratorium specifically prohibits a college and university new to teacher preparation from applying for preliminary approval to be an EPI. The moratorium currently does not prohibit new alternative route to teacher preparation providers.

As reported in the September 2017 Michigan Department of Education (MDE) White Paper, "[Trends in Michigan Teacher Certification](#)", while there has been a steady decrease in the number of new certificates issued since 2010, there remains a net surplus of new certificates statewide when compared to new hires, despite reports of shortages in specific communities and content areas.

Since the moratorium was introduced, five traditional EPIs have closed (Hillsdale College, Kalamazoo College, Finlandia University, Olivet College, and The Robert B. Miller College). Furthermore, at least one EPI has signaled its intent to cease its teacher preparation program within the next year due to declining enrollment, and another two are greatly reducing programs offered. One university has expressed interest in becoming a new EPI.

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Additionally, limiting the number of EPIs in Michigan allows the MDE staff to work closely with each program with a focus on technical assistance and quality. At the October 9, 2018 board meeting, SBE members raised the question as to whether more programs would lead to greater enrollment. [National trends in enrollment appear to be consistently declining](#), whether a State has four (4) or forty-four (44) traditional EPIs.

The MDE recommends maintenance of the moratorium as currently configured for an additional three years. This is generally supported by stakeholders, with the exception of a request that new institutions be allowed to open for special education (SE) and career and technical education (CTE). The MDE has concerns about an EPI's feasibility to develop, staff and support a college of education that only runs one or two programs in a manner that is indicative of high-quality and will meet requirements for national accreditation. Instead, the MDE would like to focus on working with existing EPIs to encourage them to open innovative CTE and special education programs if the number of programs is proven to be limiting enrollment.

Maintaining a moratorium on new traditional EPIs allows the MDE to provide intensive technical assistance to existing EPIs to create high quality programs targeted to the specific needs of Michigan K-12 schools and focus on placements in hard-to-staff districts and positions. Not extending the moratorium to alternative route providers allows flexibility for fast-track programs that can help fill emergency needs in teacher preparation.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the extension of the moratorium on granting preliminary approval to educator preparation institutions for three years (April 13, 2019 – April 30, 2022), as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated April 30, 2019.