



Offering new educator preparation programs in Michigan

The State Board of Education (SBE) issued a moratorium on approving new educator preparation institutions in August 2005. This moratorium has been extended twice since, and remains in effect. Its most recent extension was approved by the SBE in October 2015 and expires in October 2018 (see [Presentation on the Educator Preparation Institution Moratorium](#)). If your institution is based in Michigan, and the SBE lifts the moratorium on new educator preparation institutions, a letter of inquiry stating the institution's intent to provide educator preparation programs should be sent to the Director of the Office of Professional Preparation Services to initiate the approval process.

The SBE does not approve programs for educator licensure offered by out of state institutions. In order to offer distance education courses and programs to Michigan teacher candidates, your institution would need to be a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) institution. This recognition is not handled by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), but rather by Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Please visit the [LARA website](#) for a [SARA application](#) and additional information. Please note, being a SARA institution does not authorize out of state institutions to recommend candidates to the MDE for educator licensure.

Under the terms of interstate reciprocity agreements, candidates who complete out of state programs approved in another state to recommend candidates for educator certification or licensure may be eligible to obtain a Michigan educator credential based on completion of that program. Programs must advise candidates who choose to follow this route about the program's approvals in other states. Upon completion of their program, candidates will need to complete an application in the [Michigan Online Educator Certification System](#) and submit the appropriate fee. OPSS will review the application and contact the individual via email with further instructions.