

**Title 5—DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**Division 20—Division of Learning Services**  
**Chapter 400—Office of Educator Quality**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

**5 CSR 20-400.440 Procedures and Standards for Approval and Accreditation of Professional Education Programs in Missouri.** The State Board of Education (board) is amending section (1), adding paragraph (3)(A)2, renumbering the remaining paragraphs in section (3) accordingly, deleting section (5), and amending the incorporated by reference material.

*PURPOSE: This proposed amendment updates language and requirements for the approval and accreditation of professional education programs.*

(1) Educator preparation programs in Missouri shall be approved and accredited according to the *Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators (MoSPE)*, [(November 2012)], **(March 2020)**, and are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule, as published by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Educator Preparation, PO Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480, **and its website at <https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/educator-preparation/mo-standards-preparation-educators> and at <https://dese.mo.gov/governmental-affairs/dese-administrative-rules/incorporated-reference-materials>**. This rule does not incorporate any subsequent amendments or additions.

(3) Initial Approval.

(A) An educator preparation program seeking initial approval to offer either a traditional or an alternative professional education program shall submit a written proposal to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (department) addressing the elements discussed in this section. All such programs shall be reviewed by the department and approved by the State Board of Education (board) pursuant to MoSPE and as outlined below. Only those programs which the department determines to have merit and potential for providing quality preparation for candidate certification will be considered for approval. The proposals should include at a minimum the following elements:

1. A description of the proposed program based upon a statement of the purpose and objectives for an area of the public school curriculum and a statement of the nature of the proposed program that is consistent with those objectives, the mission of the organization, and the conceptual framework for the educator preparation programs. These statements shall be based on analyses of current practices and trends in the identified area of the public school curriculum;

2. **A clearly detailed plan that specifies the program's admission requirements for program candidates:**

**A. For traditional programs the plan must include discussion of the program's requirements for entry-level assessments designated by the board, with qualifying scores specified by the Educator Preparation Program;**

**B. For alternative programs the admission requirements must specify that the individual shall have earned a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution. The degree shall be in the content area of the desired certificate of license to teach or the individual shall have achieved a passing score on the designated exit assessment(s) in a middle or secondary content area of the desired certificate of license to teach. The individual shall participate in a structured interview conducted by the educator preparation program for screening, diagnostic, and advising purposes;**

3. [2.] A clearly formulated statement of the competencies for educators in the identified area of the public school curriculum. These competencies shall include subject knowledge and professional skills based upon current research and practice and shall include the competencies for educators identified in the MoSPE adopted by the board;

4. [3.] Curriculum matrix delineating the courses and supervised field and clinical experiences prescribed to address competencies appropriate for candidates to meet state certification requirements, a description of the process by which the candidates will be prepared, and provisions for assessing candidates and keeping records of their progress through the program;

5. [4.] Identification of the administrative structure of the proposed program indicating where the responsibility is vested in the educator preparation program;

6. [5.] Clearly identified resources as stipulated by MoSPE to support the program. The continuing availability of the resources shall be assured for the duration of the program. Any resources not under the control of the program shall be defined and confirmed by the controlling agency; and

7. [6.] A written plan for the continuing evaluation of the proposed program that includes definition and specifications of the kinds of evidence that will be gathered and reported to the organization and the department at designated intervals. Evaluation reports shall provide information to identify areas in the program that need to be strengthened and/or to suggest new directions for program development.

*[(5) Alternative Program Considerations.*

*(A) Alternative programs shall abide by and be evaluated according to the Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators included in rules promulgated by the board.*

*(B) Educator preparation programs shall be authorized to recommend for Initial Professional Certification (IPC) certificates of license candidates who complete approved alternative certification programs in accordance with the rules promulgated by the board.*

*(C) An individual may become a candidate in an alternative certification program upon meeting the following criteria:*

*1. The individual shall have earned a bachelor's or higher degree in the content area or a closely allied field of the desired certificate of license from a regionally accredited institution and shall have a cumulative grade point average no lower than the Missouri requirements as stipulated in the MoSPE standards, which is incorporated by reference into this rule. The individual shall participate in a structured interview conducted by the educator preparation program for screening, diagnostic, and advising purposes;*

*2. The individual shall undergo a background check conducted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol (Highway Patrol) and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which includes submitting to the department the required information in a manner acceptable to the Highway Patrol and/or FBI and paying the required fees; and*

*3. The candidate shall enter into a four- (4-) party academic contract with the educator preparation program offering the alternative program, an employing Missouri school district and the department, whereupon s/he shall receive a two- (2-) year provisional certificate of license to teach and shall—*

*A. Be assigned by the school district a mentor who is engaged in professional education work comparable to the area the candidate is seeking certification for and who will observe and work with the candidate until the candidate completes the alternative program;*

*B. Receive any additional assistance, as determined by the educator preparation program, until the candidate completes the alternative program;*

*C. Participate in the employing school district's professional development programs;*

*D. Participate in the employing school district's performance evaluation system; and*

*E. Prior to the expiration of her/his provisional certificate of license, the candidate must successfully complete the exit assessment(s) designated by the board for the IPC certificate of license.]*

*AUTHORITY: sections 161.092 [and 168.021, RSMo Supp. 2012, and sections] 161.097 and 161.099, RSMo 2016. Original rule filed Aug. 28, 2012, effective March 30, 2013. Amended: Filed March 20, 2020.*

*PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.*

*PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.*

*NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Attention: Dr. Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality, PO Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 or by email to [educatorquality@dese.mo.gov](mailto:educatorquality@dese.mo.gov). To be considered, comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Missouri Register**. No public hearing is scheduled.*