

**23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of teacher preparation programs.**

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Approved teacher preparation program" means a teacher preparation program that has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of this section and has been determined by the commission to meet the performance-based standards established by the commission pursuant to this section and the requirements of section [23-1-108](#) and to be designed and implemented in accordance with the requirements of the "Higher Education Quality Assurance Act", article 13 of this title.

(b) "Institution of higher education" means a public institution of higher education within the state system of higher education.

(c) "Teacher candidate" means a person who is participating in a teacher preparation program in order to enter the teaching profession.

(d) "Teacher preparation program" or "program" means a program of study specifically designed to prepare teacher candidates to provide high quality instruction for students.

(2) The commission shall adopt policies establishing the requirements for teacher preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in cooperation with the state board of education in developing the requirements for teacher preparation programs. At a minimum, the requirements shall ensure that each teacher preparation program may be completed within four academic years, is designed on a performance-based model, and includes:

(a) A comprehensive admission system that includes screening of and counseling for students who are considering becoming teacher candidates;

(b) Ongoing screening and counseling of teacher candidates by practicing teachers or faculty members;

(c) Course work and field-based training that integrates theory and practice and educates teacher candidates in the methodologies, practices, and procedures of teaching standards-based education, as described in parts 4 and 10 of article [7](#) of title [22](#), C.R.S., and specifically in teaching to the state model content standards adopted pursuant to section [22-7-406](#), C.R.S., or, beginning December 15, 2012, teaching to the state preschool through elementary and secondary education standards adopted pursuant to section [22-7-1005](#), C.R.S.;

(d) A requirement that each teacher candidate complete during the course of the teacher preparation program a minimum of eight hundred hours of supervised field-based experience that relates to predetermined learning standards;

(e) A requirement that each teacher candidate, prior to graduation, must demonstrate the skills required for licensure, as specified by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section [22-2-109](#) (3), C.R.S., in the manner specified by rule of the state board;

(f) Comprehensive, ongoing assessment including evaluation of each teacher candidate's subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to demonstrate skill in applying the professional

knowledge base.

(3) The commission shall also adopt policies to ensure that each teacher preparation program offered by an institution of higher education includes implementation of procedures to monitor and improve the effectiveness of the program, including at a minimum the following:

(a) Periodic review by the institution of higher education offering the teacher preparation program to ensure that the program meets the requirements specified by the commission pursuant to this section;

(b) Implementation of a procedure for collecting and reviewing evaluative data concerning the teacher preparation program and for modifying the program as necessary in response to the data collected;

(c) Implementation of a procedure for reviewing the scores achieved on the professional competency assessments required pursuant to section [22-60.5-201](#), C.R.S., by teacher candidates enrolled in and graduating from the program and modifying the teacher preparation program as necessary to improve those scores;

(d) Implementation of an institutional reward system for faculty and supervisors involved in the teacher preparation program that supports and encourages field-based activity.

(4) (a) (I) The department, in conjunction with the state board of education, shall review each teacher preparation program offered by an institution of higher education or a private institution of higher education as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4) and shall establish a schedule for review of each teacher preparation program that ensures each program is reviewed as provided in this section not more frequently than once every five years.

(II) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 1476, § 16, effective May 28, 2008.)

(III) An institution of higher education that chooses to offer a new teacher preparation program or modify an existing program, either by significantly modifying the content or modifying the geographic area in which the program is offered, shall submit the new or modified program to the department for review pursuant to this section. The commission shall adopt policies and procedures for the review of new and modified programs.

(b) Each program review conducted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (4) shall ensure that the program meets the minimum requirements adopted pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of this section and the requirements of section [23-1-108](#) and any policies adopted pursuant thereto. In addition, the department shall ensure that the program is designed and implemented in accordance with the requirements of the "Higher Education Quality Assurance Act", article 13 of this title, for institutions of higher education that are subject to said act. In determining whether to initially approve or continue the approval of a teacher preparation program, the commission shall consider any recommendations made by the state board of education pursuant to section [22-2-109](#) (5), C.R.S., concerning the effectiveness of the program content. If the state board of education recommends that a program not be approved, the commission shall follow the recommendation by refusing initial approval of the program or placing the program on probation.

(c) Each institution of higher education or a private institution of higher education that offers a teacher preparation program shall submit to the department an annual report to assist the department in reviewing the teacher preparation program pursuant to this section. The department shall collaborate with representatives from the governing boards of each institution of higher education and representatives from private institutions that offer teacher preparation programs in specifying the information to be included in the annual report.

(d) Following review of a teacher preparation program, if the commission determines that the program does not meet the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4), it shall place the program on probation. The commission shall adopt policies specifying the procedures for placing a program on probation and for subsequently terminating a program, including a procedure for appeal. A teacher preparation program that is placed on probation shall not accept new students until the commission removes the teacher preparation program from probationary status. If the commission determines that termination of the approval of a teacher preparation program is necessary, the program shall be terminated within four years after said determination. If the commission places a program on probation based on the recommendation of the state board of education, the commission shall consult with the state board of education in determining whether the program should be reapproved or whether approval should be terminated.

(5) The commission, upon the request of a nonpublic institution that provides a teacher preparation program, shall approve the program upon:

(a) Receipt of confirmation by the state board of education that the program content is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a teacher candidate to meet the requirements specified by the state board of education pursuant to section [22-2-109](#) (3), C.R.S., and the requirements for licensure endorsement adopted by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section [22-60.5-106](#), C.R.S.; and

(b) Confirmation that the program contains the requirement of a minimum of eight hundred hours of supervised field-based experience including, but not limited to, supervised field-based experience gained prior to admission to the teacher preparation program, general field-based experience, and student teaching.

(6) The department shall annually prepare a report concerning the effectiveness of the review of teacher preparation programs conducted pursuant to this section and shall provide notice to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, that the report is available to the members of the committees upon request. The report shall also state the percentage of teacher candidates graduating from each teacher preparation program during the preceding twelve months that applied for and received an initial teacher license pursuant to section [22-60.5-201](#), C.R.S., and the percentage of the graduates who passed the assessments administered pursuant to section [22-60.5-203](#), C.R.S. The education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, shall consider the report in a joint meeting held pursuant to section [22-60.5-116.5](#), C.R.S.

**Source: L. 93:** Entire section added, p. 1049, § 11, effective June 3. **L. 97:** Entire section amended, p. 462, § 14, effective August 6; entire section amended, p. 951, § 11, effective August 6. **L. 98:** Entire section amended, p. 993, § 18, effective July 1. **L. 99:** Entire section R&RE, p.

1183, § 1, effective June 1. **L. 2000:** (5) and (6) amended, p. 1115, § 4, effective May 26; (1)(a) and (4)(b) amended, p. 1546, § 7, effective August 2. **L. 2005:** (6) amended, p. 189, § 33, effective April 7; (6) amended, p. 861, § 3, effective June 1. **L. 2007:** (4)(a)(II) amended, p. 116, § 1, effective August 3. **L. 2008:** (2)(c) amended, p. 771, § 6, effective May 14; IP(2), IP(3), (4)(a), (4)(b), (4)(c), and (6) amended, p. 1476, § 16, effective May 28.

**Editor's note:** (1) Amendments to this section by House Bill 97-1219 and House Bill 97-1253 were harmonized.

(2) Amendments to subsection (6) by House Bill 05-1026 and Senate Bill 05-213 were harmonized

### **23-1-121.3. Commission directive - principal and administrator preparation programs.**

The general assembly hereby finds and declares that state-supported institutions of higher education that provide approved programs of preparation for principals or administrators must ensure that persons completing such programs receive sufficient training to successfully meet the challenges of managing a school or school district. Therefore, the commission shall adopt the necessary policies to require any state-supported institution of higher education that offers an approved program of preparation for principals or administrators to include in such program proficiencies in the principles of business management and budgeting practices and in the analysis of student assessment data and its use in planning for student instruction. In adding said proficiencies to any existing program of preparation, the institution of higher education shall ensure that said proficiencies are incorporated into the preparation program in such a manner that they do not increase the number of credit hours each student must complete for graduation nor increase the cost to the institution or to the student of providing the preparation program.

**Source: L. 97:** Entire section added, p. 43, § 2, effective March 20.