

**West Virginia Board of Education, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
and  
The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)  
Partnership Agreement**

*Whereas, CAEP is a nongovernmental, voluntary membership organization committed to the effective preparation of teachers and other P-12 professional educators; and*

*Whereas, CAEP, through an autonomous Accreditation Council, accredits educator preparation providers (EPPs) and advances excellent educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning; and*

*Whereas, CAEP is a nationally recognized accreditor, having earned recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and is seeking recognition by the United States Secretary of Education, and, therefore, develops policy and procedures aligned with all applicable requirements of CHEA and, to the extent practicable, the U.S. Department of Education; and*

*Whereas, the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) and West Virginia Higher Education (WVHEPC) and Policy Commission, herein referred to as the State, support continuous improvement in educator preparation, shall be.*

*CAEP, and the State hereby enter into this agreement detailing the State's preferences with regard to program review options and review team composition for accreditation Reviews conducted by CAEP of EPPs operating within the State and establishing the primary responsibilities each party has in supporting CAEP's accreditation activities involving all such EPPs.*

**1. CAEP Standards and Scope of Accreditation**

*The Parties understand and agree that:*

1.1. *The CAEP Board of Directors (CAEP Board or Board) has adopted standards (CAEP Standards or Standards) that serve as the basis for all accreditation reviews undertaken by CAEP. The CAEP Standards reflect the voice of the education field - on what makes a quality educator. The Standards and their components flow from two principles:*

1.1.1. *There must be solid evidence that the EPP's graduates (completers) are competent and caring educators, and*

1.1.2. *There must be solid evidence that the EPP's educator staff have the capacity to create a culture of evidence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer.*

1.2. *As a result of the ongoing critical self-review that CAEP undertakes to maintain and improve the quality of CAEP accreditation, the CAEP Board will undertake a comprehensive review and revision of the CAEP Standards on a schedule set by the Board and may, as needed, make interim*

amendments to the Standards. In making any such changes, CAEP will seek stakeholder and public input, including input from the State and its EPPs.

- 1.3. It is the responsibility of the State and any EPPs seeking or continuing CAEP accreditation to stay informed of any changes made to the CAEP Standards and the timeline(s) set by the Board for the implementation of or transition to new or revised Standards.
- 1.4. The CAEP scope of accreditation, defined in policy, distinguishes between two levels of educator preparation:

Initial-Licensure Preparation is provided through programs at the baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate levels leading to initial-licensure, certification, or endorsement that are designed to develop P-12 teachers. All Initial-Licensure Preparation programs within the Scope of Accreditation will be reviewed under CAEP Standards for Initial-Licensure.

- 1.4.1.1. Advanced-Level Preparation is provided through programs at the post-baccalaureate or graduate level leading to licensure, certification, or endorsement. Advanced-Level Programs are designed to develop P-12 teachers who have already completed an initial-licensure program, currently licensed administrators, other certificated (or similar state language) school professionals for employment in P-12 schools/districts. All Advanced-Level programs within the Scope of Accreditation will be reviewed under CAEP Standards for Advanced-Level Preparation. West Virginia Advanced Programs include: Administration (Supervisor of Instruction, Principal, Superintendent), Elementary Math Specialist, Reading Specialist, School Counselor, School Psychologist, Speech and Language Pathologist.

## **2. CAEP's Responsibility for Education Preparation Provider (EPP) Accreditation**

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 2.1. CAEP has sole responsibility for granting CAEP accreditation.
- 2.2. The process required for accreditation by CAEP is outlined in policies and procedures. Policies and procedures may be revised from time to time. It is the responsibility of the State and any EPP seeking CAEP accreditation to stay informed of any such changes as they may impact the CAEP accreditation process from the time of their adoption or publication.

## **3. State's Responsibility for Program Approval**

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 3.1. The State has responsibility for program approval. In granting program approval, the State will utilize information generated from CAEP's review(s) of an EPP, including but not limited to an Accreditation Council decision on CAEP accreditation and the assignment of any Areas for Improvement (AFIs) and Stipulations, as described in CAEP policy. Although the State may elect to

have state-specific standards and/or requirements incorporated into the CAEP review, consistent with the program review options outlined below, only information gathered on an EPP's compliance with CAEP Standards and requirements will be used by the Accreditation Council to make a decision.

- 3.2. The State will periodically review its program review requirements against the CAEP Standards and policies and will, in a timely manner, make CAEP aware of any conflicts or potential inconsistencies so that all parties to this agreement are aware of any such issues and can work constructively together to minimize any challenges that may arise from them.

#### 4. CAEP Accreditation Cycle

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 4.1. The CAEP accreditation cycle involves an EPP in continuous improvement and requires an EPP to demonstrate that it meets CAEP's high standards of quality required to improve P-12 student learning.
- 4.2. To merit full accreditation by CAEP, an EPP must meet all CAEP Standards on the basis of sufficient and accurate evidence.
- 4.3. A review, carried out by an Evaluation Team (which may also be referred to as a review team or site review team), is an essential part of the accreditation process. Members of the assigned team investigate the quality of an EPP's evidence, including the accuracy and consistency of the evidence provided in relation to CAEP Standards. In accordance with CAEP policy, CAEP may utilize a virtual site review or may have one or more Evaluation Team members participating using electronic means.
- 4.4. The State elects that CAEP's reviews of EPPs in the State will be carried out using Evaluation Teams composed as follows:
  - 4.4.1. **Joint Review Team.** For any review except one required in conjunction with an accreditation decision of Accreditation with Stipulations or Probationary Accreditation, the composition of the Evaluation Team will be as follows:
    - 4.4.1.1. For a Review involving only one level of accreditation (i.e., initial or advanced), the Joint Review Team includes four national reviewers appointed by CAEP and up to three reviewers appointed by the State.
    - 4.4.1.2. For a Review involving both levels of accreditation, initial and advanced-level, the Evaluation Team will include five CAEP-appointed reviewers and up to four state-appointed reviewers.
    - 4.4.1.3. For a Stipulation or Probation review, the Evaluation Team is comprised of two CAEP-appointed reviewers. The state may choose to add one reviewer for a total of a three-person team. The lead reviewer is appointed by CAEP.
  - 4.4.1.4. The State shall provide CAEP with its recommended Evaluation Team members within any timelines established by CAEP. If the State is unable to appoint members, CAEP will appoint from its pool of volunteers trained to serve as Evaluation Team members a CAEP-only

team. All such teams are led by an Evaluation Team chair (or Evaluation Team leader) appointed by CAEP.

- 4.4.1.5. Fewer site visitors may be assigned if the EPP: has fewer than 10 programs (licensure areas), is hosting a joint CAEP/State visit (-1), is hosting a document review/stipulation visit, and/or, is hosting an interim site visit. For joint visits: In determining site team size, CAEP-assigned and state-assigned visitors are considered CAEP visitors.
- 4.5. Prior to assignment to any CAEP Evaluation Team, an individual must have successfully completed CAEP training for review team members and must acknowledge understanding of, and agreement to, adhere to CAEP's code of conduct, including with regard to confidentiality and conflicts of interest.
- 4.6. Each Evaluation Team shall include a P-12 practitioner, when possible. The State will make recommendations for P-12 practitioners through the CAEP accreditation platform.
- 4.7. At the discretion of the State, the State's teachers' association(s) may appoint one (1) representative per association to observe the Site Review. Any expenses associated with the attendance of an observer must be covered by the association(s) or State. Prior to participation, any observer must acknowledge understanding of an agreement to adhere to CAEP's policies and procedures regarding Site Reviews and the CAEP code of conduct, including with regard to confidentiality and conflicts of interest.
- 4.8. All Site Review activities undertaken by a CAEP Evaluation Team will be conducted in accordance with CAEP policies and procedures.
- 4.9. CAEP is not responsible for Site Review expenses for state-assigned personnel.
- 4.10. An EPP that is subject to the jurisdiction of the State may choose from among any of the following program review options for CAEP accreditation:
  - 4.10.1. **Specialty Program Review with National Recognition.** The goal of the specialized professional association (SPA) Program Review with National Recognition is to align specialty licensure area data with national standards developed by SPAs in order to receive national recognition at the program level. The Evaluation Team will consider the National Recognition decision available in SPA program level reports as evidence to meet the sufficiency criteria related to CAEP Standard 1.
  - 4.10.2. **CAEP Evidence Review of Standard 1.** Evidence for the CAEP Evidence Review of Standard 1 process is developed through the analysis of an EPP's outcome assessment data aligned to those standards delineated in CAEP Standard 1.3. CAEP's Evidence Review of Standard 1 provides information to the State on both the alignment of evidence with state standards and the disaggregated results. The State will decide how to use this review of evidence in its decision making.

- 4.11. The specific timeline established for the review of an EPP, as well CAEP's consideration of any request for an extension, will be decided by CAEP or the Accreditation Council, as appropriate, on a case by case basis and in accordance with CAEP policies.
- 4.12. Once granted full accreditation by CAEP, an EPP's term of accreditation shall be seven (7) years. Shorter terms are granted with a decision of Accreditation with Stipulations or Probationary Accreditation. Throughout its term, to maintain accreditation, an EPP must comply with CAEP policies, including policies regarding payment of annual dues and the submission of annual reports.
- 4.13. An EPP for which the Accreditation Council issues a decision to deny or revoke accreditation may have a right to petition for an appeal subject to CAEP's policy on appeals.
- 4.14. The State will provide to CAEP its policy leading to a "Change in State Status." The State will notify CAEP within thirty (30) days of action taken when a CAEP-accredited EPP has had a "Change in State Status" as a result of a decision on specialized professional association (SPA) program status by the State.
- 4.15. Accreditation-specific terminology and definitions used by CAEP as part of its EPP review and accreditation processes may vary from similar terms and definitions used by the State. Any definitions of key terms and glossaries created by CAEP are available on the CAEP website [<http://caepnet.org/glossary>]. The State should inquire with CAEP about the definition of any term if there is uncertainty regarding its meaning in the CAEP accreditation context.

## **5. Opportunities for State Input**

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 5.1. CAEP will afford the State multiple opportunities to provide CAEP, the Evaluation Team, and members of the Accreditation Council with any information or data the State deems relevant to the accreditation of an EPP, as follows:
  - 5.2. At least sixteen (16) weeks prior to any scheduled Site Review, CAEP will give the State notice of the upcoming Site Review. At any time, up to six (6) weeks before the scheduled Site Review, the State may provide CAEP with comments and information on the EPP for consideration by the Evaluation Team. EPPs will be given an opportunity to respond to any such comments prior to the Site Review.
  - 5.3. At any time, the State may file a complaint regarding an EPP with the Accreditation Council for investigation and consideration as part of the EPP's ongoing cycle of CAEP accreditation. In accordance with CAEP policy, adverse action may result from any such investigation.
  - 5.4. In the event an EPP within the State petitions for the appeal of an adverse action of the Accreditation Council, CAEP will notify the State that such petition has been received. Any notification of a decision made by an ad-hoc appeal panel will be made in accordance with Section 7, below, and the detailed notification provisions included in CAEP policy.

## **6. Decisions of the Accreditation Council and an Ad-Hoc Appeals Council**

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 6.1. The Accreditation Council makes decisions regarding the accreditation of EPPs at meetings held not less than two (2) times each year.
- 6.2. Following any decision of the Accreditation Council to deny or revoke the accreditation of an EPP, the EPP is promptly informed of its option to file a petition for an appeal and appeal requirements. Appeals criteria and process information are included in CAEP's policies on appeals.
- 6.3. CAEP provides written notice of each decision of the Accreditation Council and an Ad-hoc Appeal Panel **in** accordance with CAEP policies.
- 6.4. The written notice CAEP provides regarding its accrediting decisions, includes notice to the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency and the WVHEPC which may be a party to this agreement. CAEP's policies regarding notices specify the parties to which notice must be provided and the respective timelines for each.

## **7. Data Sharing**

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 7.1. The CAEP Standards and process for CAEP Accreditation require an EPP to collect and share data. To the extent that the State maintains data necessary for CAEP's review of an EPP, subject to any data sharing agreement that may exist between an EPP and the State, CAEP expects that the State will make the relevant data available to EPPs at no cost, in a timely manner, with all personally identifiable information removed or redacted, and with all appropriate permissions to use the data for CAEP accreditation activities.
- 7.2. In order to facilitate the reviews necessary for CAEP accreditation, CAEP will provide the State and each dues paying EPP in the State with access to the CAEP accreditation platform, CAEP's data and information management system. Should the State or any EPP fail to pay annual dues to CAEP in a timely manner, CAEP reserves the right to suspend access to the CAEP accreditation platform until **any** outstanding dues are paid.
- 7.3. CAEP policies and the CAEP accreditation platform include information on the confidential nature of information maintained within the CAEP accreditation platform. All CAEP accreditation platform users must acknowledge CAEP's confidentiality policy and agree to adhere to it.

## **8. Partnership Dues, State Benefits, and Fees for Additional Services**

The Parties understand and agree that:

9. The State will be responsible for payment of annual State Partnership dues (See Appendix A). The WVDOE and the WVHEPC will each be responsible for 50 percent of the State's annual dues. Dues may be reviewed and updated annually by CAEP. Should the amount of the State's annual State Partnership dues be changed during the term of this agreement, CAEP will notify the State of the new dues amount and the effective date.
- 9.1. CAEP will provide up to three (3) individuals employed by the State with access to the CAEP accreditation platform.
- 9.2. During each year covered by this agreement, CAEP will waive the CAEP Conference registration fee for one (1) designated State representative; however, the State or State representative must assume other expenses associated with conference participation.
- 9.3. During each year covered by this agreement, CAEP will assume all expenses for one (1) designated State representative to participate in the annual CAEP Clinic. A registration fee will be assessed for any additional State staff and they must assume other expenses associated with participation in the clinic..
- 9.4. CAEP offers states access to CAEP National Training for up to five (5) site reviewers a year, including training and travel (additional participants may be added based on need and on a cost-recovery basis). CAEP may also offer supplemental training opportunities for state reviewers. Supplemental training events that are arranged, including events in the State, will be provided by CAEP on a cost-recovery basis and with specific arrangements negotiated according to CAEP's policies regarding fees and expenses for training.

## **10. State and CAEP Contacts**

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 10.1. The WVDOE and the WVHEPC will each designate a liaison to serve as the primary contact for CAEP throughout the term of this agreement.
- 10.2. CAEP will designate a liaison to serve as the primary contact for the State through the term of this agreement.

## **11. Agreement Term and Amendments**

The Parties understand and agree that:

- 11.1. CAEP and the State enter into this partnership agreement for the five (5)-year period beginning August 1, 2021 and ending on July 31, 2026.
- 11.2. The Parties will review this agreement at least annually and, as necessary, propose any amendment deemed appropriate and which may be adopted upon the agreement of the Parties.
- 11.J. Should any provision of this agreement be determined to be in conflict with CAEP policy, CAEP

policy will be the prevailing authority and this agreement will be required to be amended to resolve the conflict.

11.4. Notwithstanding the annual review described above, this agreement may be modified by consent of the Parties at any point.

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Christopher Koch, President  
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

By signing this agreement, the undersigned agrees to be bound by the terms outlined above and affirms that he or she has the authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the State.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatory  
**West Virginia Board of Education**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatory  
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

### Appendix A: State Dues Structure

Beginning in FY18 (July 1, 2017), a new State Partnerships dues structure\* takes effect. The new structure more fairly aligns and delineates (1) the collective resources required to service state partners in conjunction with their respective EPPs (fixed and proportional amounts), and (2) the variable resources required to administer the CAEP-State joint reviews for States that choose to participate in the joint CAEP Accreditation processes (variable amount).

Annual costs for supporting activities associated with State Partnerships have both fixed and proportional components which include costs associated with the CAEP Clinic, fall and spring CAEP Conferences, staff time, technology costs for maintaining workspaces within CAEP's accreditation platform, and other indirect expenses.

For the fixed and proportional amounts, states would be assessed \$3,000 annually to cover expenses for the spring convening and conference registration plus a portion of indirect expenses which are based on the actual percentage of CAEP member EPPs within each state.

For example:

State A has 20 CAEP member EPPs, or 2.2% of total CAEP EPPs. The proportional amount will be set at 2.2% of \$315,000 (current total), or \$6,900. Therefore, the total fees for State A will be: \$3,000 (fixed) + \$6,900 (variable)= \$9,900.

\*This represents the dues structure in effect at the time this agreement is entered into by the Parties. CAEP reviews the dues structure annually and reserves the right to adjust the State's annual dues as needed to ensure that all costs of CAEP's accreditation activities are adequately covered. CAEP will notify the State upon the adoption of any changes to this structure and the data on which any new dues structure will take effect.

**Amendment to June 7, 2021**  
**West Virginia Board of Education, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission,**  
**and**  
**The Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP)**  
**Partnership Agreement**

**Amendment 1:**

In the event that one or more Specialized Professional Associations chooses to implement a fee for program review, a West Virginia provider may choose to undergo CAEP Evidence Review of Standard 1/AI, in lieu of National Recognition through the Specialized Professional Association which institutes a fee.

Christopher Koch, President Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation	7/25/2022 DATE
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By signing this agreement, the undersigned agrees to be bound by the terms outlined above and affirms that he or she has the authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the State.

Signatory West Virginia Board of Education	7/13/2022 DATE
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Signatory West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission	7/19/2022 DATE
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The WVBE Policy 5100, §126-114-11.3, outlines the requirement that all approved educator preparation programs in WV be nationally accredited by a WVBE approved accreditor of which CAEP is. Currently, the CAEP State Partnership Agreement (4:10) requires all content programs to submit to a SPA if available for program review. If a SPA is not available, the EPP will submit the content program for review under CAEP Evidence Review of Standard One. Recommendation to amend the CAEP State Partnership Agreement to waive a required SPA for CAEP accreditation, if a SPA should choose to add a financial requirement for review. Educator Preparation Providers (EPP) who provide a content area that leads to licensure under a SPA that has added a fee for review services would be permitted to follow non-SPA protocol in the CAEP State Partnership Agreement and submit their program to CAEP Evidence Review of Standard One.