

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Consent Item:

Removal of Approval for Lake Erie College's Initial Certification Programs

Staff Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should remove approval for Lake Erie College's initial programs as submitted through the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) process in July 2024. Lake Erie College should also be removed from the list of EPSB approved providers.

Rationale:

Lake Erie College previously applied for EPSB program approval as a SARA institution; however, Lake Erie College is no longer a SARA institution and is not permitted to provide online programming under SARA to new or continuing students.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB remove approval for the initial programs submitted by Lake Erie College?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, 16 KAR 2:010, 16 KAR 4:020, 16 KAR 5:020, 16 KAR 5:040

History/Background:

Existing Policy: Beginning December 1, 2016, Kentucky became a member of SARA. This agreement among member states, districts and territories establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. SARA is overseen by a National Council and is administered by four regional education compacts (i.e., SREB). In order for the Board to approve educator preparation programs that are NC-SARA members, located out-of-state and offered exclusively online, the educator preparation program has to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Kentucky requirements.

Summary: Lake Erie College received EPSB approval in July 2024 for following programs:

Initial Undergraduate Programs (Bachelor of Education):

Elementary Education K-5

Learning and Behavior Disorders P-12

However, Lake Erie College is no longer a SARA institution. The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) received notice from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) on October 9, 2024, that Lake Erie College's most recent federal financial composite score for the period ending June 30, 2023, was 0.6. Under the SARA requirements, if a newly published

composite score of an institution falls below 1.0 and the institution is unable to provide documentation from USDOE of a more recent calculated score of 1.0 or above, the state must act within 90 days of notification to remove the institution from SARA participation. In alignment with SARA policy, ODHE submitted non-renewal documentation for Lake Erie College to NC-SARA with an effective date of January 7, 2025. Currently, the college is not permitted to provide online programming under SARA to new or continuing students. Therefore, staff recommends that the EPSB remove Lake Erie College from the list of EPSB approved providers. Verification that Lake Erie College is no longer a SARA institution is included for EPSB review.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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