

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Consent Item:**

Request for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) approval of Oklahoma Christian University's programs for (1) Rank Change in Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and (2) Rank Change in Master of Education in Teaching Students with Disabilities as submitted.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should approve Oklahoma Christian University's programs for (1) Rank Change in Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and (2) Rank Change in Master of Education in Teaching Students with Disabilities as submitted through the SARA process.

### **Rationale:**

Oklahoma Christian University has met the EPSB's requirements under SARA for program approval. Those requirements include state, regional and CAEP accreditation; demonstration that the programs of preparation are not based solely upon the completion of a written or verbal assessment; and, compliance with the program admission requirements established in 16 KAR 5:020. Initial programs must also demonstrate compliance with 16 KAR 5:040 as it relates to the admission, placement and supervision of teacher educator candidates in student teaching, subject to the field experience limitations set forth under SARA.

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.030, KRS 161.1211, 16 KAR 1:016; 16 KAR 2:010, 16 KAR 4:020, 16 KAR 5:010, 16 KAR 5:020, 16 KAR 8:010, 16 KAR 8:020

### **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 SARA members, located out-of-state and offered exclusively online, the educator preparation program has to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Kentucky requirements.

***Summary:*** Oklahoma Christian University is requesting approval for the following Rank Change Programs (Master of Education):

Curriculum and Instruction  
Teaching Students with Disabilities

Oklahoma Christian University is currently accredited at the initial licensure level by CAEP through Spring 2027. As evidenced by the application, Oklahoma Christian University is recognized to grant degrees by the Higher Learning Commission, Oklahoma Department of Higher Education, and the Oklahoma Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. Successful program completion includes the following: Alignment with the Standards for Certified Teacher Leader or InTASC standards; Evidence of Program Alignment with 16 KAR 5:020 – Minimum of Bachelor’s degree for Rank II; and, minimum of Master’s degree for Rank I; Minimum of 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale; 4Cs documentation, Professional Dispositions Assessment; Kentucky Code of Ethics; Character and Fitness; Evidence of Alignment with Standards for Certified Teacher Leader in 16 KAR 1:016. A copy of the application is included in the Board Meeting Materials.

***Budget Impact:*** There is no budgetary impact at this time.

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