

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STAFF NOTE

Action Item:

Morehead State University: Approval of Initial and Advanced Programs

Staff's Recommendation:

The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) should accept the recommendations from the Accreditation Audit Committee (AAC) to approve the initial and advanced preparation programs at Morehead State University.

Rationale:

16 KAR 5:010 outlines the role and responsibilities of the AAC. The AAC has followed the regulatory procedures.

Action Question:

Should the EPSB grant the Education Preparation Provider (EPP) approval for the initial and advanced preparation programs at Morehead State University?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, 16 KAR 5:010

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 5:010 identifies the requirement and processes for educator preparation providers to demonstrate evidence of meeting standards for accreditation and program approval.

Summary: An Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) Site Visitors team conducted the on-site visit evaluation of the EPP on November 4-6, 2025.

Under AAQEP guidelines, the Quality Review Team (QRT) conducts a review of the programs put forward by the EPP. The team considers the case presented in the Initial Accreditation Report aligned to the 2025 standards by verifying the claims made in the report and by gathering additional relevant evidence to corroborate the claims. The AAQEP Accreditation Council, upon reviewing the accreditation materials, will determine the final decision concerning whether to accredit or not accredit.

AAQEP Accreditation Commissioners' Decision:

The AAQEP Accreditation Commissioners met on January 20, 2026, and made the accreditation decision and found all standards were met by the EPP at Morehead State University for the initial and advanced programs. A letter of approval was sent on February 18, 2026, to the institution.

ACCREDITATION AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

On May 19, 2026 the AAC met and reviewed the initial and advanced programs for Morehead State University. 16 KAR 5:010 requires EPPs to submit each of its program review documents for review prior to its on-site accreditation visit. Morehead State University submitted their programs and received written notification of the results of the program review.

Pursuant to 16 KAR 5:010, Section 19, the AAC recommends: (1) Approval of the initial and advanced level educator preparation programs at Morehead State University.

Budget Impact: Recurrent costs are incurred related to Kentucky Department of Education staff facilitating the review processes for educator preparation providers to demonstrate evidence of meeting standards for accreditation and program approval.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

As indicated above, AAQEP met on January 20, 2026 and, thereafter, sent a letter of approval to the institution.

As indicated above, the AAC met on May 19, 2026 and recommended approval of the initial and advanced level educator preparation programs at Simmons College of Kentucky.

Contact Person:

Dr. Melissa Diebel, Consultant
Division of Educator Preparation and Certification
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness
(502) 564-5846
Email: Melissa.diebel@education.ky.gov