



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: III.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: September 12, 2007

SUBJECT: Draft of a Proposed State Partnership Protocol with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) for the Joint Conduct of National Accreditation and State Program Approval of Maine Educator Preparation Programs

BACKGROUND: In 1992 the State Board of Education unanimously approved entering into a partnership relationship with the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for the joint conduct of national accreditation and state program approval. NCATE accreditation is voluntary, while state program approval is required. The partnership was initially designed, and has since been refined several times, to satisfy the desire of institutions wishing to seek national accreditation concurrent with state program approval; the two processes are nearly identical. The exception being that NCATE accredits the unit, or infrastructure that supports the delivery of the program, and the state approves the program for certification purposes. Joint visits, conducted under the partnership, have benefited institutions in many ways, including the reducing of potentially two team visits to a campus to one joint visit and the reduction of redundancy in other ways including the preparation of materials, scheduling of institutional interviews, and costs. In May, 2005 the Board approved moving from a 5-year to a 7-year approval cycle for Maine educator preparation programs that are both State approved and nationally accredited. This change has since been incorporated into State Board regulations, Chapter 114 – *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs*. [For the Board's reference, a copy of the current NCATE/Maine Partnership Protocol (in effect to June, 2013) will be provided].

The Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), founded in 1997, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving academic degree programs for professional educators, those who will teach and lead in schools, pre-K through grade 12. TEAC's goal is to support the preparation of competent, caring, and qualified professional educators. In 2003, TEAC became a national accrediting agency recognized by the US Secretary of Education. To this point, three (3) of Maine's educator preparation institutions (UMF, USM, and UMaine) had been accredited by NCATE and preferred to seek continuing accreditation through NCATE. Throughout 2005-2006, the USM College of Education and Human Development explored the efficacy of pursuing accreditation through TEAC instead of NCATE. In the spring of 2007, the College Dean informed NCATE that USM would no longer seek continuing accreditation as an NCATE institution and that national accreditation would be pursued through TEAC.

This decision necessitated the development of a State/TEAC partnership agreement similar to that which exists with NCATE. A draft partnership protocol has been developed for receipt during the Board's meeting on September 12, 2007. You will note that the TEAC accreditation process and product differs in several ways from that utilized by NCATE. It will be important for the Board to

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the draft TEAC partnership protocol and that the Board set workshop time aside, over the next few months, to fully understand the differences and similarities between the NCATE and TEAC approaches to national accreditation of preparation programs for education personnel prior to committing to another partnership agreement.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
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