



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN  
COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT** X.A

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael T. Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, Maine Department of Education, on behalf of Commissioner Pender Makin

**DATE:** July 17, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Request to Extend Existing Approval of the Bates College Educator Preparation Program by Twenty-Four Months

**BACKGROUND:**

Bates College is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Fall 2020 to Fall 2025.

On January 16, 2024, Dr. Anita S. Charles, Senior Lecturer and Director of Teacher Education at Bates, indicated the institution's desire to request a two-year extension of their current EPP approval. Dr. Charles cited "several unique factors occurring over the next few years":

*(1) at least one (of a total of only four) faculty members on leave for part or all of '24-'25, '25-'26, and '26-'27, necessitating faculty searches in addition to having absent members of our faculty; (2) an internal decadal review extending throughout AY 24-25; (3) additional internal initiatives to deepen our curricular goals under new Bates regulations for courses to be tagged for the designation of "Race, Power, Privilege, and Colonialism"; and (4) an initiative to establish a 9<sup>th</sup> semester program within the next couple of years.*

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that "requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education."

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on May 22, 2024, and voted unanimously to approve Bates' request to extend their EPP approval through Fall 2027.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve Bates College's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twenty-four months.