



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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IX.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: June 21, 2024

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

BACKGROUND:

Bowdoin College is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Spring 2022 to Spring 2027.

On December 15, 2023, Dr. Doris A. Santoro, Professor and Chair of Bowdoin's Education Department, indicated the institution's desire to request an extension to their current EPP approval. Bowdoin has offered the following reason for their requested extension:

"The state review process, while valuable, also proves substantially labor-intensive. Only three full-time faculty comprise our department. Preparation for the review diverts substantial resources away from our teaching and research. Furthermore, it places significant demands on our time-strapped school partners who play a significant part in the review process."

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 Bowdoin's request to extend their EPP approval through Spring 2029.

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