

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

December 9, 2021

From: Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 7

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to provide provisional state approval of the initial educator preparation program in Early Childhood Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage's School of Education (UAA).

◆ BACKGROUND

- 4 AAC 12.308 requires Alaska's educator preparation programs to meet or substantially meet the standards of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) to be considered for state approval.
 - CAEP standards for initial standards are available [here](http://caepnet.org/~media/Files/caep/standards/2022-initial-standards-1-pager-final.pdf?la=en).
(<http://caepnet.org/~media/Files/caep/standards/2022-initial-standards-1-pager-final.pdf?la=en>)
- State approval is required for programs to recommend graduates to the Department of Education and Early Development's teacher certification office for licensure.
- UAA initial teacher preparation programs lost accreditation on January 11, 2019. UAA advance teacher preparation programs hold CAEP accreditation through Fall 2028.
- UAA's Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Development is accredited by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NEAYC) through Spring 2025.
- UAA has a proposed timeline for achieving accreditation through both NEAYC and CAEP.
- UAA's School of Education has previously presented detailed information concerning the proposed Early Childhood Education teacher preparation programs to the State Board of Education & Early Development (SBOE) and to the SBOE's reading committee.
- The following items can be found under Agenda Item 1:
 - UAA request for provisional program approval; and,
 - UAA Early Childhood PowerPoint Presentation and supporting documentation.
- Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development; Susan McKenzie, Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Sondra Meredith, Administrator, Teacher Education and Certification; Dr. Ed McLain, Interim

Director, School of Education, University of Alaska Anchorage; and Bob Griffin, Reading Committee Chair will be present to brief the board.

◆ **OPTIONS**

- Approve UAA's Early Childhood Education teacher preparation programs request for provisional state approval with conditions.
- Deny UAA's Early Childhood Education teacher preparation programs request for provisional state approval.
- Seek more information.

◆ **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Approve UAA's Early Childhood Education teacher preparation programs request for provisional state approval with conditions.

◆ **SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) School of Education request for provisional state approval of its Early Childhood Education teacher preparation programs through December 31, 2025, with the following conditions:

- 1) If UAA is denied NAEYC or CAEP accreditation for its initial teacher preparation program during provisional approval, UAA will immediately freeze enrollment in the Early Childhood Education teacher preparation program.
- 2) The UA Board of Regents and UAA must provide the board with a written assurance that all students enrolled in the provisionally approved program will have the opportunity to complete their program at UAA and be recommended for licensure in the event that UAA is denied NAEYC or CAEP accreditation;
- 3) Until UAA's initial preparation program regains CAEP accreditation, UAA will provide annual report updates on their progress toward CAEP accreditation for their initial program at December state board meetings; and
- 4) Each update must minimally include summaries of
 - a. enrollment and completion data;
 - b. candidate's assessment data;
 - c. graduates' certification and employment information;
 - d. graduate and employer satisfaction data;
 - e. advisory committee's recommendations; and
 - f. any programmatic adjustments resulting from advisory committee recommendations.