

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

**October 5, 2023**

**From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 8**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to provide provisional state approval of the initial educator preparation bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education at the Alaska Bible College (ABC).

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- On June 19, 2023, ABC's Academic Dean requested the board's review and provisional approval of an initial teacher preparation program bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education. ABC has provided requested information to the board through the department concerning the initial program's structure and alignment to CAEP standards.
- For a teacher preparation program to gain CAEP accreditation, the program must have three sets of student level cohort data to review and analyze as part of its quality assurance and continuous improvement system. To attract students to a teacher preparation program, the program must be able to assure students that completion of the program will result in a teaching license. To be able to recommend students for a teaching license, a teacher preparation program must have state approval.
- 4 AAC 12.308 requires Alaska's educator preparation programs to meet or substantially meet the CAEP standards to be considered for state approval.
  - CAEP Initial Level 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>)
- Currently, ABC does not have students who have completed their initial teacher preparation program and is unable to obtain full CAEP accreditation because of a lack of student level data. To be granted provisional state approval, the information provided by ABC needs to demonstrate substantial compliance with the six CAEP standards.
- Without the data elements required for full CAEP accreditation, ABC has provided sufficient information to demonstrate alignment to and substantial compliance with CAEP standards.
- The following items can be found behind Agenda Item 6:
  - ABC's requests for provisional program approval;
  - Supporting documentation; and,
  - Letters of Support.
- Susan McKenzie, Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, and Sondra Meredith, Administrator, Teacher Education and Certification will be present to brief the board.

◆ **OPTIONS**

- Approve ABC's initial educator preparation bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education request for provisional state approval.
- Approve ABC's initial educator preparation bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education request for provisional state approval with conditions.
- Deny ABC's initial educator preparation bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education request for provisional state approval.
- Seek more information.

◆ **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Approve ABC's initial educator preparation bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education request for provisional state approval.

◆ **SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development approve the Alaska Bible College's request for provisional state approval of its Elementary Education teacher preparation programs through June 30, 2026. During provisional approval status, the Alaska Bible College is required to provide annual updates on their progress toward CAEP accreditation at the state board's winter regular meeting.