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November 17, 2025

Dr. Jarrett Moore  
Dean for the College of Education  
Black Hills State University  
1200 University Street  
Spearfish, South Dakota 57799-9004

Dear Dr. Moore:

The Accreditation Council of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) met in October 2025, and I am pleased to inform you that the following accreditation status has been granted:

The educator preparation provider at Black Hills State University is granted Accreditation at the initial-licensure level and the advanced level as described in the Accreditation Action Report.

Included with this letter are two subsequent documents:

- 1) The Accreditation Action Report provides details of the accreditation status.
- 2) Information for EPPs Granted Accreditation provides further information on the Council's decision process and provider responsibilities during the accreditation term.

Congratulations on your accreditation achievement. I appreciate your commitment to excellence in educator preparation accreditation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D. President

Enclosures: Accreditation Action Report, Certificate of Accreditation (emailed to provider leadership), and Information for EPPs Granted Accreditation

cc:

Leon Biggs, Assessment and Field Placement Coordinator, Black Hills State University;  
Faye LaDuke-Pelster, Black Hills State University;  
Jami Kesling, Black Hills State University;  
Kathy Riedy, South Dakota Dept. of Educ. and Cultural Affairs;  
Mary Stadick-Smith, South Dakota Dept. of Educ. and Cultural Affairs



# ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

School of Education  
Black Hills State University  
Spearfish, South Dakota

Accreditation Council October 2025  
Initial Accreditation Date: 10/24/1998

This is the official record of the Educator Preparation Provider's accreditation status.  
The EPP should retain this document for at least two accreditation cycles.

## ACCREDITATION DECISION

**Initial-Licensure Level Decision: Accreditation**

**Accreditation Term: 10/19/2025 through 12/31/2032**

**Next Review Semester: Spring 2032**

**Advanced Level Decision: Accreditation**

**Accreditation Term: 10/19/2025 through 12/31/2032**

**Next Review Semester: Spring 2032**

## SUMMARY OF STANDARDS

CAEP STANDARDS: Initial-Licensure Level	Standards Decision
Standard R1: Content and Pedagogical Knowledge	Met
Standard R2: Clinical Partnerships and Practice	Met
Standard R3: Candidate Recruitment, Progression, and Support	Met
Standard R4: Program Impact	Met
Standard R5: Quality Assurance System and Continuous Improvement	Met
Standard R6: Fiscal and Administrative Capacity	Met

CAEP STANDARDS: Initial-Licensure Level	Standards Decision
Standard R7: Record of Compliance with Title IV of the Higher Education Act	Met

CAEP STANDARDS: Advanced Level	Standards Decision
Standard RA1: Content and Pedagogical Knowledge	Met
Standard RA2: Clinical Partnerships and Practice	Met
Standard RA3: Candidate Quality and Selectivity	Met
Standard RA4: Satisfaction with Preparation	Met
Standard RA5: Quality Assurance System and Continuous Improvement	Met
Standard RA6: Fiscal and Administrative Capacity	Met
Standard RA7: Record of Compliance with Title IV of the Higher Education Act	Met

## AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND STIPULATIONS

**Areas for Improvement:** Identified areas for improvement are addressed in the provider's annual report.

**Stipulations:** Stipulations are addressed in the provider's annual report and must be corrected within two years to retain accreditation.

### ADVANCED LEVEL AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND STIPULATIONS

#### RA.3 Candidate Quality and Selectivity

Areas for Improvement	Rationale
AFI - RA3.3 - The EPP presented limited evidence of monitoring and supporting advanced candidate progression.	Limited evidence was provided on transparency of transition points with candidates. Inconsistent evidence of a formal complaint process and how records of complaints were maintained was provided.

#### RA.5 Quality Assurance System and Continuous Improvement

Areas for Improvement	Rationale
AFI - RA5.1 - The EPP provided limited evidence of a functioning Quality Assurance System.	The EPP provided evidence that indicated the advanced Quality Assurance System did

Areas for Improvement	Rationale
	not ensure a sustainable process for documenting operational effectiveness.
AFI - RA5.2 - The EPP provided limited evidence that the EPP's Quality Assurance System relied on relevant, verifiable, representative, cumulative, and actionable measures to ensure interpretations of data were valid and consistent.	The EPP provided various assessments as evidence but did not provide rubrics or evidence of how the assessments met CAEP sufficiency criteria. In addition, data submitted for these assessments were presented in a way that did not allow for analysis that led to program improvement.
AFI - RA5.3 - The EPP provided limited evidence of internal and external stakeholder involvement in program design, evaluation, and continuous improvement process.	The EPP provided limited and outdated evidence for internal stakeholder involvement and no evidence where stakeholders, specific to the Reading/Literacy program, were involved in the design, evaluation, or continuous improvement of the program.
AFI - RA5.4 - The EPP provided limited evidence that it regularly, systematically, and continuously assessed performance against its goals and relevant standards, tracked results over time, documented modifications and/or innovations and their effects on EPP outcomes.	The evidence presented, in the form of agendas, did not provide sufficient evidence of what data were reviewed; who reviewed it; or what actions were taken as a result of the review. Although the EPP made note of program changes in the narrative, it was not clear what data were reviewed, who reviewed it, or how the EPP ensured that the process of review was regular and systematic.

## PROGRAMS INCLUDED IN REVIEW

Program Name	Licensure Level	Degree Level
5-12 Biology	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
5-12 English	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
5-12 History	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
5-12 Math & Science Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
5-12 Mathematics	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
5-12 Science Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
5-12 Social Science Teaching (Composite)	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
5-12 Speech	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
Early Childhood Special Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate

Program Name	Licensure Level	Degree Level
Elementary Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
K-12 Art	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
K-12 Music	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
K-12 Physical Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
K-12 Spanish	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
K-12 Special Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Baccalaureate
Master of Arts in Teaching - Special Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Master's
Master of Science in Secondary Education	Initial-Licensure Level	Master's
K-12 Reading Specialist	Advanced Level	Master's

## INFORMATION ABOUT ACCREDITATION STATUSES

**Accreditation** for seven (7) years is granted if the EPP meets all CAEP Standards and components, even if areas for improvement (AFIs) are identified in the final report of the Accreditation Council.

- **Areas for Improvement (AFIs)** indicate areas which must be improved by the time of the next accreditation visit. Progress reports on remediation of AFIs are submitted as part of the Annual Report. AFIs not remediated by a subsequent site visit may become stipulations.

**Accreditation with stipulations** is granted for 2 years if an EPP meets all standards but receives a stipulation on a component under any standard. Failure to submit a response to the stipulation within a two (2)-year time frame results in revocation. Failure to correct the condition leading to the stipulation within the specified two (2)-year period results in revocation or probation.

- **Stipulations** describe serious deficiencies in meeting CAEP Standards and/or components and must be brought into compliance in order to continue accreditation. All stipulations and relevant evidence are reviewed by the Accreditation Council. Failure to correct the condition leading to the stipulation results in probation or revocation of accreditation.

**Probationary Accreditation** is granted for two (2) years when an EPP does not meet one (1) of the CAEP Standards. Failure to submit a response to the stipulation within a two (2)-year time frame results in revocation. Failure to correct the condition leading to the stipulation within the specified two (2)-year period results in revocation.

## SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

The scope of CAEP's work is the accreditation of educator preparation providers (EPPs) that offer bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral degrees, post-baccalaureate or other programs leading to certification, licensure, or endorsement in the United States and/or internationally (2018).

CAEP does not accredit specific degree programs, rather EPPs must include information, data, and other evidence on the following in their submission for CAEP's review:

All licensure areas that prepare candidates to work in preschool through grade 12 settings at the initial-licensure level and advanced level that lead to professional licensure, certification, or endorsement as defined by the state, country, or other governing authority under which the EPP operates and for which the state, country, or other governing authority has established program approval standards.

Depending on an EPP's submission, accreditation may be awarded at one or both of the following levels: Initial-Licensure Level and/or Advanced Level.

1. **Initial-Licensure Level** is provided at the baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate levels leading to initial-licensure, certification, or endorsement that are designed to develop P-12 teachers.
2. **Advanced Level Accreditation** is provided at the post-baccalaureate or graduate levels leading to licensure, certification, or endorsement. Advanced Level Programs are designed to develop P-12 teachers who have already completed an initial-licensure level program, currently licensed administrators, or other certified (or similar state language) school professionals for employment in P-12 schools/districts. CAEP's Advanced Level accreditation does not include any advanced level program not specific to the preparation of teachers or other school professionals for P-12 schools/districts; any advanced level non-licensure programs, including those specific to content areas (e.g., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.); or Educational leadership programs not specific to the preparation of teachers or other school professionals for P-12 schools/districts.

Information on accreditation status, terms, and any conditions provided within this directory is specific to the accreditation level(s) described above. CAEP-accredited EPPs are required to distinguish accurately between programs that are accredited and those that are not.

**NOTE: Neither CAEP staff, evaluators, nor other agents of CAEP are empowered to make or modify Accreditation Council decisions. These remain the sole responsibility of the Council itself.**

## END OF ACTION REPORT