



# **DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION**

## **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHE)**

### **PROTOCOL FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS OF STUDY LEADING TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE IN ARKANSAS**

**January 2023**

## **PROTOCOL FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF IHE-BASED PROGRAMS OF STUDY LEADING TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE IN ARKANSAS**

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules (DESE) approval is required for any IHE before implementing a new program of study that prepares candidates for any professional educator license in Arkansas or revising an existing approved program for licensure. The review process described herein is to ensure that programs fulfill state licensure requirements. The DESE is responsible for oversight of the program review and approval process at the state level. (Ark. Code Ann. §6-11-105, §6-17-422, and §6-17-402) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) must approve prior to implementation of any professional education program at Arkansas public universities (Ark. Code Ann. §6-61-208) or at postsecondary institutions certified to operate in Arkansas (Ark. Code Ann. §6-61-301). The DESE [Rules Governing Educator Licensure](#) and the DESE [Rules Governing Educator Support and Development](#) should also be considered to ensure candidates within programs are in compliance prior to licensure application.

Programs will be required to submit a Higher Education Act (HEA) Title II Report, submit data to the DESE, and submit data to Educational Testing Service (ETS). The HEA Title II Report is a national data collection of institutions and states related to teacher preparation and licensure. HEA Title II Reports can be found at <https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Home.aspx>.

HEA Title II Report data is also incorporated into the DESE's Educator Preparation Provider Quality Report (EPPQR). To continuously improve the quality of educator preparation providers (EPP), the DESE works with program directors to produce this report. Information EPPs are required to submit for the EPPQR includes:

- Data submitted to HEA Title II
  - Program requirements
  - Enrollment and completer numbers
  - EPP candidates' and completers' race and gender data
  - Program field experiences/clinical practice information
  - Faculty data
  - Technology information
  - Goals regarding addressing shortage areas
- Data submitted to the DESE
  - Partnership, minority, and shortage area information
  - Description of the provider's program to prepare educators to teach reading using scientific reading instruction
- Data submitted to ETS for Title II Pass Rate reporting:
  - Enrollment and completer data
  - Demographic information
  - Candidates' and completers' licensure information

The EPPQR is published annually on the DESE's website and is used for the following purposes:

- The public may view aggregate provider and program data of EPP completers.
- School districts and charter schools may use the report to make informed hiring decisions.
- Those interested in a career in education may use the report to make decisions regarding which program to attend.
- Institutions may use data to support continuous improvement efforts.

The EPP will be required to report to the DESE all minority graduates who have been recommended for Arkansas Educator Licensure. The report is shared with school districts to support their recruitment efforts.

If this is a new program operating as a new provider, no data will be reviewed until October of the following year for Educator Preparation Program Reports.

**NOTE: Institutions of higher education that offer programs leading to educator licensure in Arkansas shall be accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Before program implementation, public institutions of higher education in Arkansas and any out-of-state institutions of higher education offering programs (including programs with online coursework) to students in Arkansas shall be approved by the AHECB to offer certificate and degree programs leading to educator licensure in Arkansas.**

## Section I. New Educator Licensure Program

1. An IHE seeking to offer a new program of study to prepare candidates for **first-time educator licensure** in Arkansas submits a letter of intent (LOI) for recent programs.
  - a. If the new program leads to the creation of a credential or degree, an Arkansas public university or other IHE certified under Arkansas Code Ann. §6-61-301 submits an LOI for new programs to the ADHE. The ADHE forwards this form to the DESE to serve as documentation of intent to offer the program.
  - b. All other IHEs submit an LOI for new programs directly to the DESE.
  - c. Dates for submission of LOI for new programs:
    - December 1 for a program to be implemented the following fall semester.
    - June 1 for a program to be implemented the following spring semester.
    - October 1 for a program to be implemented the following summer term.
2. New programs for first-time licensure and new endorsement programs submit a Program Proposal for New Programs.
  - a. If the new program leads to the creation of a certificate or degree, an Arkansas public university or other IHE certified under Arkansas Code Ann §6-61-301 submits the Program Proposal for New Programs to the ADHE. The Program Proposal for New Programs will be forwarded to the DESE.
  - b. All other IHEs submit The Program Proposal for New Programs directly to the DESE.
  - c. Dates for submission of the Program Proposal for New Programs:
    - February 1 for a program to be implemented in the following fall semester.
    - July 1 for a program to be implemented in the following spring semester.
    - December 1 for a program to be implemented in the following summer term.
3. The DESE program advisor completes an initial review of the proposal and requests any additional information or clarification that would be helpful during the review.
4. If the proposal is for a new first-time licensure program, the DESE program advisor convenes and facilitates the work of a program proposal review panel to review the program of study. A panel may be required for a new endorsement program.
  - a. The panel is comprised of members from Arkansas's public and independent higher education institutions with similar state-approved programs, a content specialist, and/or a K-12 educator in the content or specialty area.
  - b. A representative from the ADHE may serve on the panel as an ex-officio member.
  - c. Panel Procedures:
    - The panel completes an initial review and may request additional information, clarification, or revisions.
    - The DESE program advisor corresponds with the panel and the IHE to ensure the panel has all the necessary information to make a

- recommendation for approval or denial.
  - The timeline for the review process is dependent on the availability and scheduling of reviewers and the time needed for institutions to respond to the panel comments and/or requests for additional or clarifying information.
5. The DESE program advisor conducts an internal review of the proposal if a panel review is not required.
  6. A decision is made as to the approval or denial of the proposed program.
    - a. If the DESE determines that the proposed program does not meet the necessary standards and requirements and does not approve the proposed program, written notification of the denial is sent to the IHE and ADHE.
    - b. If the DESE determines that the proposed program meets all necessary standards and requirements and grants initial program approval, the IHE, DESE, and ADHE personnel are sent written notification.
  7. During the initial approval period, the program is authorized to admit students; implement assessments; collect, aggregate, and utilize data for program improvement; and recommend program completers to the DESE for a license.

## **Section II: Revisions to Existing Educator Licensure or Endorsement Programs**

### **A. Conditions Requiring DESE Approval of Revisions to Existing Educator Licensure Programs**

1. New or revised licensure or program requirements from the DESE.
2. Revisions from IHE
  - a. Changes to the program of study meeting the competencies required for licensure (ATS, TESS/LEADS, Educator Competencies)
  - b. Changes that lead to a different grade range of licensure being awarded
  - c. Changes in the program's delivery structure
  - d. Changes to course numbers, titles, or credits
  - e. Changes to the entry or exit requirements of the program
  - f. Changes in the delivery structure that involve less than 50% of the program's curriculum
  - g. Expansion of programs to other sites (Does not apply to individual courses)

### **B. Procedure for Approving Program Revisions**

1. An IHE seeking to revise an approved program of study for educator licensure submits the Program Proposal for Revised Programs.
  - a. Arkansas public universities or other IHE certified under Arkansas Code Ann §6-61-301 submit proposals that require a change to the degree/certificate program title, CIP code, or the number of hours to the ADHE. The proposal is forwarded to the DESE.
  - b. All other proposals are submitted directly to the DESE.
2. The DESE reviews the proposed revisions and the supporting documentation submitted

by the IHE. A panel review is usually not required. Additional or clarifying information may be requested.

3. The DESE program advisor will work with the IHE to establish a timeline for revision.

# Appendix I



## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Professional Education Program Proposal COVER SHEET

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of program:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CIP Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree or award level (B.S., M.A.T., graduate non-degree, etc.):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate the title and grade range of the license for which candidates will be prepared:**

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade Range:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal is for:**

- \_\_\_ **New First-Time Licensure Program (Complete Section A)**
- \_\_\_ **New Educator Licensure Endorsement Program (Complete Section B)**
- \_\_\_ **Revision(s) to Approved Licensure Program (Complete Section C)**
- \_\_\_ **Deletion of Approved Licensure Program (Complete Section D)**

**Indicate the portion of the proposed program to be delivered via Distance Learning Technology (online):** \_\_\_\_\_ %

**Proposed program starting date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will this program be offered at more than one site?**  Yes  No

If yes, list the sites where the program will be offered:

*Prior approval by AHECB is required for Arkansas public institutions and institutions certified under Ark. Code Ann. §6-61-301 to offer programs at off-campus sites.*

## A. New Program for First-Time Licensure

Proposals for new programs should be prepared with each section identified, appropriately labeled, and paginated. Proposals should be submitted electronically and include the following components:

1. Cover Sheet (Use the front page from this guide or the fillable form coversheet from the website, which contains basic information about the proposed program.)
2. Table of Contents
3. Needs Summary
  - a. Provide a brief statement of the program's purpose, mission, and/or goals.
  - b. Explain the need for the program with supporting documentation, such as data from supply and demand studies, institutional surveys, feedback from school districts, or requests from individuals.
  - c. Provide estimates of the number of candidates expected to enter and complete the proposed program each year for five years.
4. Institutional Approval
  - a. Briefly describe the institution's educator preparation program approval process.
  - b. Provide official documentation, including signatures, showing approval was granted by all appropriate authorizing entities. If approval has not been granted, indicate when approval is expected.
5. Program Description
  - a. Provide a general description of the program.
  - b. Provide a program of study. If the program is embedded in a baccalaureate degree, including an eight-semester degree plan. Include the number of hours required to complete the program.
  - c. Describe the delivery and support system (e.g., face-to-face, online, blended).  
**Note: [HLC policy](#) requires an institution to seek HLC's prior approval if the institution plans to initiate or expand its distance education offerings. When initiation or expansion is anticipated beyond the terms of its current HLC stipulation, an institution must submit a substantive change request to HLC.**
  - d. Provide a [curriculum matrix](#) that shows course alignment with the current corresponding [Arkansas Educator Competencies](#) for the content area or category of licensure (Not applicable for alternative educator preparation programs except alternative preparation programs leading to Special Education K-12 licensure).
  - e. Provide an [Arkansas Teaching Standards Matrix](#) documenting how the [Arkansas Teaching Standards](#) are covered in the program of study.
  - f. Provide a [Teacher Excellence and Support System \(TESS\) matrix](#) documenting how the [Competencies for TESS](#) are covered in the program of study.
    - i. Programs in Guidance/Counseling that lead to a first-time standard license should provide a [matrix](#) showing alignment to the components of the [TESS for School Counselor Framework](#) in place of the TESS for Classroom Teachers Framework.



- g. Provide documentation that the program includes curriculum that addresses requirements established by Arkansas statutes governing educator preparation and the [DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure](#), including without limitation, instruction in:
- i. The Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators
    - Preservice teachers are held to the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators
    - For preservice teachers to receive a Provisional License, documentation of the successful completion of the professional educator ethics training identified by rules of the state board must be provided, under Act 294 of 2017
  - ii. Child maltreatment, under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-61-133
  - iii. Family and Community Engagement, under Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-1705
  - iv. Teen suicide awareness and prevention, under Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-708
  - v. Information on the identification of students at risk for dyslexia and related disorders, under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-609
  - vi. Human trafficking awareness
  - vii. Three (3) college credit hours in Arkansas History at an accredited institution of higher education or, if the proposal is for an alternative educator preparation program, 45-hour professional development in Arkansas History offered through Arkansas IDEAS (only for proposals for K-6, middle childhood social studies (4- 8), or secondary social studies (7-12)). §6-17- 418
  - viii. Science of Reading (SOR) instruction, under Act 416 of 2017 and Act 1063 of 2017
    - Educator Preparation Programs leading to Elementary Education K-6 and Special Education K-12 should submit syllabi/module descriptions showing objective alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Proficiency Level](#). The connection between objective and competency should occur on the syllabus/module description itself
    - Programs leading to licensure areas other than Elementary Education K-6 or Special Education K-12 should present evidence of alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Awareness Level](#). **Note: DESE-approved prescribed pathways for awareness are aligned to the awareness level competencies.**
  - h. Provide syllabi, which include course descriptions, for all professional education courses prescribed in the program and for content courses listed on the submitted curriculum matrix.
    - i. Syllabi should include objectives that align to ATS, the appropriate TESS framework, and Educator Competencies.
    - ii. Syllabi should include a description of methods/assessments used to determine if a candidate has successfully met the learning objectives.
  - i. First-time licensure must provide the method used to ensure candidates demonstrate pedagogical competence.
  - j. Describe competencies expected of program candidates regarding their knowledge

and use of educational technology. (Competencies should reflect the [International Society for Technology in Education \(ISTE\) Standards for Educators](#)).

k. Common Assessments

- i Describe assessments that are common among the provider's educator preparation programs
- ii Indicate the relative places within the program where the assessments occur, including state licensure assessments.
- iii Provide samples of any common assessments other than state licensure assessments and their scoring rubrics.
- iv Describe how TESS is used for the evaluation of candidates during the program. If TESS is not used, provide detailed information on the system of support, development, and appraisal of teacher performance and verification used
- iv. Explain how data from the assessments will be collected and used for program improvement.

l. Field Experience/Supervised Clinical Practice

- i. Describe how the program engages candidates in substantial, quality participation in field experiences (such as observations and practicums) and supervised clinical practice (such as student teaching and internships), in the applicable licensure level and content area. First-time licensure programs must include a clinical internship of no less than one university semester or equivalent including:
  - The amount of time (e.g., clock hours, weeks, etc.) that candidates are expected to participate in each of the experiences.
  - Settings in which the experiences will be accomplished and the procedures by which candidates are placed in these settings
    - Settings must adhere to requirements outlined in the current [DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure](#)
  - Description of the qualifications for clinical educators responsible for supervising candidates
  - Verification of training in the system of support, development, and appraisal of teacher performance (e.g., TESS)
  - How candidates will be provided a combination of field experiences and supervised clinical practice across the entire grade level of the license being sought

**NOTE: An alternative educator preparation program may place the candidate as a teacher of record with a Provisional License or in supervised clinical practice as a culminating experience of the candidate's program before licensure.**

- ii. Include plans for supporting candidates during the clinical component of the program

6. Program Partnerships

Describe primary and secondary partnerships with entities external to the EPP where candidates fulfill field experiences/supervised clinical practice requirements

- a. Include the length of the relationship, how it formed, how it is structured, and the roles and responsibilities of the EPP and each partner
  - b. Include documentation that these partnerships are operational and on how they operate, including evidence of mutually agreed upon expectations for candidate entry, activities, and exit
  - c. Include evidence that the program is preparing educators to meet the needs of Arkansas schools
  - d. Include documentation that partners collaborate to select, prepare, evaluate, support, and retain clinical educators who can serve as models of effective practice and have the skills to supervise candidates
7. Admission Requirements
- a. Indicate requirements for admission into the program, such as admissions assessment, GPA, disposition assessments, letters of recommendation, demonstration of English proficiency, prerequisite coursework, and any other program requirements.
  - b. Provide a summary of the admission procedures, such as application submission, curriculum plan submission, or teacher education committee interview.
  - c. Indicate at what point a student will be officially admitted as a candidate in the educator preparation program.
  - d. Indicate at what point a candidate is considered a participant in supervised clinical practice
8. Retention Procedures
- a. Describe any mid-program benchmarks or transition points for evaluating candidates in the program. At least one mid-program benchmark is required.
  - b. Describe any intervention strategies, such as advising, mentoring, or tutoring used to assist candidates who struggle to succeed in the program. The program is expected to have more than one strategy for assisting candidates.
  - c. Describe the procedures for placing candidates on probation, including how districts/schools are informed when a candidate is placed on probation during the teaching component of the program.
  - d. Describe the procedures for dismissing candidates from the program, including how districts/schools are informed when a candidate is dismissed during the teaching component of the program.
9. Exit Requirements
- a. Define requirements for each of the following:
    - i When a licensure officer will recommend a candidate for Arkansas licensure
    - ii When a candidate is considered a program completer
    - iii When a candidate is eligible for graduation
10. Candidate Follow-Up Procedures
- a. Describe the program's plan for obtaining and reporting data from program graduates.
11. Faculty

- a. Provide a roster of all professional education faculty who teach or supervise candidates in the program, including adjunct faculty. The roster should indicate their highest degrees, professional experience, and course assignment(s). For clinical educators, provide verification of training in the system of support, development, and appraisal of teacher performance (e.g., TESS) used. Do not include general studies or content faculty.
  - b. Provide a listing of faculty who will be teaching courses via distance learning technology and indicate the courses and online teaching experience for each instructor.
12. Institutional Resources Dedicated to Program Support
- a. Describe the available human, fiscal, or physical resources available to support the program.
  - b. Identify the availability of any specific or special needs that are essential to the program, such as science laboratories, special equipment, or specific technology.
  - c. If any courses or academic support services are provided by other institutions or organizations, include a copy of the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the responsibilities of each party and the effective dates of the agreement.
13. Implementation Plan
- a. Describe how the program will be implemented. If a current program is being phased out to be replaced with the proposed new program, then indicate how students in the current program will be accommodated.

#### **B. New Program for Licensure Endorsement**

Proposals for licensure endorsement programs should be prepared with each section clearly identified, appropriately labeled, and paginated. Proposals should be submitted electronically and include the following components:

1. Cover Sheet (Use the front page from this guide or the fillable form coversheet from the website, which contains basic information about the proposed program.)
2. Table of Contents
3. Needs Summary
  - a. Provide a brief statement of the program's purpose.
  - b. Explain the need for the program and provide supporting data, such as data from supply and demand studies, institutional surveys, or requests from individuals.
4. Institutional Approval
  - a. Briefly describe the institution's educator preparation program approval process.
  - b. Provide official documentation, including signatures, showing approval was granted by all appropriate authorizing entities outlined above. If approval has not been granted, indicate when approval is expected.
5. Program Description
  - a. Provide a general description of the program.
  - b. Provide a copy of the program of study, including the number of hours required.

- c. Describe the delivery and support system (e.g., face-to-face, online, blended).
- d. Provide a curriculum [matrix](#) that shows course alignment with the current corresponding [Arkansas Educator Competencies](#) for the content area or category of licensure.
  - i. Programs leading to K-6 or 7-12 Special Education Resource licensure should provide a SPED 101 Academy syllabus that shows objective alignment with the [SPED 101 Academy competencies](#). The connection between objective and competency should occur on the syllabus itself.
- e. Science of Reading (SOR) instruction, under Act 416 of 2017 and Act 1063 of 2017
  - Programs should present evidence of alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Awareness Level](#) or how they ensure candidates have previously completed the appropriate pathway. **Note: DESE-approved prescribed pathways for awareness are aligned to the awareness level competencies.**
- f. An educational leadership program that leads to an administrator's license should provide documentation outlining how the LEADS Framework is used in the program of study.
- g. If a program leads to licensure in one of the specialty areas listed below, provide a TESS for Specialty Areas matrix documenting how the appropriate [TESS for Specialty Areas Framework](#) is covered in the program of study.
  - Gifted and Talented K-12
  - Instructional Facilitator K-12
  - Reading Specialist K-12
  - Library Media Specialist K-12
  - Guidance/Counseling K-12
- h. Provide syllabi, which include course descriptions, for all professional education courses prescribed in the program and for content courses listed on the submitted curriculum matrix.
  - i. Syllabi should include objectives that align with the appropriate TESS/LEADS framework and Educator Competencies.
  - ii. Syllabi should include a description of methods/assessments used to determine if a candidate has successfully met the learning objectives.
- i. Common Assessments
  - i. Describe assessments that are common among the provider's educator preparation programs
  - ii. Indicate the relative places within the program where the assessments occur, including state licensure assessments.
  - iii. Provide samples of any common assessments other than state licensure assessments and their scoring rubrics.
  - iv. Provide a description of how TESS is used for evaluation of candidates during the program. If TESS is not used, provide detailed information on the system of support, development, and appraisal of teacher performance and verification used

- v. Explain how data from the assessments will be collected and used for program improvement.
  - j. Describe how the program engages candidates in substantial, quality participation in field experiences (such as observations and practicums) and, if the competencies are required, supervised clinical practice (such as student teaching and internships), in the applicable licensure level and content area
    - i. Include a description of the qualifications for clinical educators responsible for supervising candidates
      - a. An educational leadership preparation program that leads to an administrator's license should include methods for ensuring clinical educators are LEADS trained
      - ii. An educational leadership preparation program that leads to an administrator's license should require internship experience that includes site-based and in-person interaction among school supervisors, program faculty, and candidates
6. Program Partnerships
- Describe formal and informal partnerships with entities external to the EPP where candidates fulfill field experiences/supervised clinical practice requirements
- a. Include the length of the relationship, how it formed, how it is structured, and the roles and responsibilities of the EPP and each partner
  - b. Include documentation that these partnerships are operational and on how they operate, including evidence of mutually agreed upon expectations for candidate entry, activities, and exit
  - c. Include evidence that the program is preparing educators to meet the needs of Arkansas schools
  - d. Include documentation that partners collaborate to select, prepare, evaluate, support, and retain clinical educators who can serve as models of effective practice and have the skills to supervise candidates
7. Admission Requirements
- a. Indicate requirements for admission into the program, such as admissions assessment, GPA, disposition assessments, letters of recommendation, demonstration of English proficiency, prerequisite coursework, and any other program requirements.
  - b. Provide a summary of the admission procedures, such as application submission, curriculum plan submission, or teacher education committee interview.
  - c. An educational leadership program that leads to an administrator's license should provide the following:
    - i. A description of the method for interviewing as an admission requirement.
    - ii. A description of how candidates will show evidence of teacher effectiveness before admission. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Verification from the applicant's superintendent that the applicant is performing at the level of an Effective Teacher, or an equivalent measure if the applicant is not employed by an Arkansas public school
  - Portfolio showing evidence of ability to raise student achievement
  - National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT)
  - Micro-credential that demonstrates teacher effectiveness
- iii. A description of how candidates will show evidence of leadership abilities before admission. Examples include, but are not limited to:
- Graduation from a DESE recognized or approved teacher leader academy, institute, or program
  - Portfolio showing evidence of adult leadership activities
  - Micro-credential in an identified area of leadership
  - Performance assessment
8. Retention Procedures
- a. Describe any intervention strategies, such as advising, mentoring, or tutoring used to assist candidates who struggle to succeed in the program.
9. Exit Requirements
- a. Define requirements for each of the following:
- i When a licensure officer will recommend a candidate for Arkansas licensure
  - ii When a candidate is considered a program completer
  - iii When a candidate is eligible for graduation (if applicable)
10. Candidate Follow-Up Procedures
- a. Describe the program's plan for obtaining and reporting data from program graduates
11. Faculty
- a. Provide a roster of program faculty that includes their highest degrees, course assignment(s) in the proposed program, and professional experience. For clinical educators, provide verification training in the appropriate system of support, development, and appraisal of educator performance (e.g., TESS for Specialty Areas; LEADS). List all professional education faculty, including adjunct faculty, who teach or supervise candidates in the program. Do not include general studies faculty.
- b. Provide a listing of faculty who will be teaching courses via distance learning technology and indicate the courses and online teaching experience for each instructor.
- c. An educational leadership program that leads to an administrator's license should provide evidence of how site-based, in-person interaction with faculty will be achieved to an adequate extent
- i. Include the number of candidates assigned to be a clinical educator during the internship
  - ii. Include evidence that candidates can interact with program faculty during coursework consistently

12. Institutional Resources Dedicated to Program Support
  - a. Describe the human, fiscal, or physical resources available to support the program.
  - b. Identify the availability of any specific or special needs that are essential to the program, such as science laboratories, special equipment, or specific technology.

### **C. Revisions to an Existing Program**

Proposals for revising existing programs should be prepared with each section clearly identified, appropriately labeled, and paginated. Proposals should be submitted electronically and include the following components:

1. Cover Sheet (Use the front page of this guide or the fillable form coversheet from the website, which contains basic information about the proposed program.)
2. Rationale
  - a. Explain the reason for and a description of the proposed revision(s).
3. Institutional Approval (Only required for major revisions)
  - b. Briefly describe the institution's educator preparation program approval process.
  - c. Provide official documentation, including signatures, showing approval was granted by all appropriate authorizing entities outlined in 3.a. If approval has not been granted, indicate when approval is expected.
4. Documentation of Revisions
  - d. Changes to Curriculum
    - i. Provide a copy of the current program of study indicating the proposed revisions. If the program is embedded in a baccalaureate degree, including the current eight-semester degree plan indicating the proposed revisions. Include the number of hours required to complete the program.
    - ii. Provide a revised [curriculum matrix](#) that shows course alignment with the **current** corresponding [Arkansas Educator Competencies](#) for the content area or category of licensure, if applicable.
    - iii. Provide a revised [Arkansas Teaching Standards matrix](#) for first-time licensure programs documenting how the [Arkansas Teaching Standards](#) are covered in the program of study
    - iv. Provide documentation outlining how the appropriate TESS or LEADS standards ([TESS for classroom teachers](#), [TESS for Specialty Areas](#), or LEADS) are used in the program of study, if applicable.
    - v. Provide syllabi that include course descriptions for all new or revised professional education courses prescribed in the revised program and for new or revised content courses listed on the submitted curriculum matrix.
      - Syllabi should include objectives that align to the Arkansas Teaching Standards (for first-time licensure programs), TESS/LEADS framework, and Educator Competencies
      - Alternative educator preparation programs leading to Special Education K-12 licensure or endorsement programs leading to K-6 or 7-12 Special Education Resource licensure should provide a SPED 101 Academy syllabus that shows objective alignment with the [SPED 101](#)



[Academy competencies](#). The connection between objective and competency should occur on the syllabus itself.

- Alternative educator preparation programs leading to Elementary Education K-6 and Special Education K-12 licensure should submit syllabi/module descriptions showing objective alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Proficiency Level](#). The connection between objective and competency should occur on the syllabus/module description itself
  - Programs leading to licensure areas other than Elementary Education K-6 or Special Education K-12 should present evidence of alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Awareness Level](#) or how they ensure candidates have previously completed the appropriate pathway. **Note: DESE-approved prescribed pathways for awareness are aligned to the awareness level competencies.**
  - Syllabi should include a description of methods/assessments used to determine if a candidate has successfully met the learning objectives.
- vi Indicate any changes to common assessments throughout the program, including any changes to when state-mandated assessments are required. Provide samples and scoring rubrics for any new or revised common assessments.
- vii Describe any revisions to the field experiences (such as observations, practicums) and supervised clinical practice (student teaching, internships) required for candidates in the program.
- e. Transition to DLT format
- i Submit a rationale for the transition.
  - ii Submit a current program of study identifying the courses in the program that will be delivered totally or partially via distance learning technology.
  - iii Describe the methods for instructor-to-student and student-to-student interaction in the distance learning courses/modules, including synchronous (e.g., videoconferencing and chat) and asynchronous (e.g., email and discussion boards) methods.
  - iv. Describe the assessment processes used in the courses to determine students' achievement of intended outcomes
  - v. Submit syllabi for DLT courses that reflect the revised methods for interaction and assessment processes.

**Note: [HLC policy](#) requires an institution to seek HLC's prior approval if the institution plans to initiate or expand its distance education offerings. When initiation or expansion is anticipated beyond the terms of its current HLC stipulation, an institution must submit a substantive change request to HLC.**

- f. Changes to Policies Overseeing Candidate Quality
- i Describe any changes to entry requirements, including the process and/or when students are officially considered a candidate in the educator

- preparation program.
- ii Describe any changes to retention procedures, such as mid-program benchmarks or transition points.
  - iii Describe any changes to exit requirements, including the definitions of the following:
    - When a licensure officer will recommend a candidate for Arkansas licensure
    - When a candidate is considered a program completer
    - When a candidate is eligible for graduation

5. Transition Plan

If the revision creates new or additional requirements for current program candidates, indicate how they will be accommodated in the revised program.

**D. Deletion of an Existing Program**

Proposals for program deletion should be prepared with each section clearly identified, appropriately labeled, and paginated. Proposals should be submitted electronically and include the following components:

- a. Cover Sheet (Use the front page of this guide or the fillable form coversheet from the website, which contains basic information about the proposed program.)
- b. Rationale Explain the reason for the proposed deletion.
- c. Institutional Approval
  - i. Briefly describe the institution's educator preparation program deletion process.
  - ii. Provide official documentation, including signatures, showing approval of the deletion being granted by all appropriate authorizing entities. If approval has not been granted, indicate when approval is expected.
- d. Transition Plan

If applicable, explain how candidates currently enrolled in the program will be accommodated.

## Appendix I Glossary of Terms

**“Accreditation”** means the official recognition granted to the institution of higher learning, educator preparation provider, or program of study that meets the standards of quality established by the accrediting agency.

**“Alternative Educator Preparation Program”** means a program of study approved by the DESE for candidates who have a bachelor’s degree and are preparing for licensure as teachers and leaders in public schools in this state.

**“ArkansasIDEAS”** means Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools, a partnership between the Division and the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) to provide through the AETN access to high-quality, online professional development for Arkansas licensed educators.

**“Asynchronous”** describes a teaching method in which online learning resources are used to facilitate information sharing outside the constraints of time and place among a network of people.

**“ATS”** means Arkansas Teaching Standards.

**“Benchmark”** means a description or example of candidate performance that serves as a standard of comparison for evaluation or judging quality.

**“Candidate”** means an individual who has been admitted into an educator licensure program.

**“Clinical Educators”** means all educator preparation provider (EPP) and school-based individuals, including classroom teachers, administrators, and instructional support personnel, who assess, support, and develop a candidate’s knowledge, skills, or professional dispositions at some stage in the clinical experiences.

**“Distance learning technology”** means electronic or digital learning media, including the Internet, e-mail, television, and other audio-visual communication devices used to deliver instruction where the teacher and the students are in separate physical settings.

**“Educator Preparation Program Completer”** means a person who has completed all coursework/modules and program requirements of a state-approved program of study.

**“Field experiences”** means the activities for candidates in educator preparation programs that allow early and ongoing practice opportunities to apply content and pedagogical knowledge. These include observations, tutoring, assisting teachers and administrators, and practicums.

**“GPA”** means grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.

**“LEADS”** means Leader Excellence and Support System, a statewide system for observation and

support of K-12 administrators.

**“Preservice teacher”** means an unlicensed person who is enrolled as a student in an educator preparation program approved by the DESE.

**“Rubrics”** means criteria that indicate levels of quality or performance.

**“Supervised clinical practice”** means pre-service teaching or internship in a school setting that provides candidates with extensive opportunities to develop and demonstrate competence in the professional roles for which they are preparing, completed under the guidance and supervision of licensed practicing school personnel and college or university supervisory personnel. This includes internships and student teaching.

**“Synchronous”** means describes a distance learning technology venue in which instruction is delivered and received simultaneously.

**“TESS”** means Teacher Excellence and Support System, a statewide system for observation and support of K-12 Classroom and Specialty Teachers.

**“Transition point”** means a key point in a program when candidates are assessed for their knowledge, skills, and/or dispositions to determine if they are ready to proceed to the next stage in the program.