



# 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**

## **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 prior to 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 and align to the standards of the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). 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 grant approval 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 decisions about hiring.
- 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). Prior to 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. Furthermore, the educator preparation provider (EPP) within the IHE must be accredited by CAEP. If the EPP is not yet CAEP accredited, it may submit proposals for individual licensure programs to the DESE while the EPP applies for CAEP accreditation. Before the EPP can accept candidates, it must meet the CAEP eligibility requirements for application, and the licensure program must be DESE approved.**

## **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 new 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 a 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 a 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 for the purpose of reviewing 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. The new program may operate with initial approval until the professional education unit's next CAEP review. 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 license.

**Note for New Providers:** The Department may grant provisional state approval upon review by the DESE until accreditation is achieved when an educator licensure program proposed by an educator preparation provider is identified by CAEP either as accreditation eligible or as a candidate for accreditation. If accreditation is not achieved within five (5) years of being identified by CAEP as accreditation eligible or as a candidate for accreditation, the provider's professional education programs will forfeit the provisional state approval, and no new students may be admitted into the programs but the Department may allow existing candidates to matriculate through the program.

## **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 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**  
**Professional Education Program**  
**Proposal**



**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 clearly identified, appropriately labeled, and paginated. Proposals should be submitted electronically and include the following components:

1. Cover Sheet (Use 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 a five-year period.
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, include 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 with the exception of 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
  - In order 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 ArkansasIDEAS (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 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 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
  - 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
  - ii. Include plans for supporting candidates during the clinical component of the program

**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.**

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 will be 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.
- b. 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 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 to 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. Provide a description of how the program engages candidates in substantial, quality participation in field experiences (such as observations and practicums) and, if the competencies require, 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 experiences that include 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 conducting an interview as an admission requirement.
  - ii. A description of how candidates will show evidence of teacher effectiveness prior to 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 prior to admission. Examples include, but are not limited to:
    - Graduation from an 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, 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 number of candidates assigned to a clinical educator during internship
  - ii. Include evidence that candidates have the opportunity to interact with program faculty during coursework on a consistent basis

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)
  - 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 in 3.a. If approval has not been granted, indicate when approval is expected.
4. Documentation of Revisions
  - a. Changes to Curriculum
    - i. Provide a copy of the current program of study indicating the proposed revisions. If the program is imbedded in a baccalaureate degree, include 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.
- b. 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.**

- c. 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 was granted by all appropriate authorizing entities outlined in 3.a. 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 II Glossary of Terms**

## Glossary of Terms

**Accreditation** – 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.

**ADHE** – The Arkansas Department of Higher Education

**AHECB** – The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**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.

**Asynchronous** – Describes a teaching method <https://www.hlcommission.org/in> which online learning resources are used to facilitate information sharing outside the constraints of time and place among a network of people

**Benchmark** – A description or example of candidate performance that serves as a standard of comparison for evaluation or judging quality

**CAEP** – Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation

**Candidate** – An individual who has been admitted into an educator licensure program

**Clinical Educators**-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

**Clinical Experiences** - A culminating clinical practice experience that can be of varying duration but no less than 15 weeks. The clinical internship takes place in an authentic educational setting where teacher candidates engage in the pedagogical work of the profession of teaching, closely integrated with educator preparation instruction and supported by a formal school-EPP partnership. Placements must reflect the subject area and grade level of the license being sought

**Completer** - means a person who has completed all coursework/modules and program requirements of a state approved program of study

**DESE** – The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

**Distance learning technology** – 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

**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** – Grade point average based on a 4.0 scale

**HLC**- Higher Learning Commission

**LEADS**- Leader Excellence and Support System, a statewide system for observation and support of K-12 administrators

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

**Rubrics** – Criteria that indicate levels of quality or performance

**Supervised clinical practice** – 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** – describes a distance learning technology venue in which instruction is delivered and received simultaneously

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

**Transition point** – 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