NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
and
TEACHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (TEAC)

AGREEMENT

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) hereby enters into an agreement with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) to conduct comprehensive program reviews and accreditation for professional educator preparation programs in New Jersey institutions of higher education. In accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:9-10.1, institutions of higher education must obtain accreditation by a national professional education accreditation body such as TEAC or any other national professional education accreditation body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education. New Jersey institutions of higher education (IHE) must select from among the Department of Education's approved accrediting organizations and utilize their designated choice for the dual purposes of evaluating their institutional compliance with New Jersey Administrative Code and of evaluating the quality of their educator preparation program(s).

NJDOE Conditions:

The New Jersey Department of Education will rely on TEAC accreditation as the vehicle for comprehensive program review and accreditation for those IHEs that select TEAC. These reviews will incorporate all programs leading to New Jersey instructional, administrator, and educational services certification.

NJDOE will allow IHEs to submit one document to TEAC, the Inquiry Brief*, and apply it for two purposes: 1) state-approved comprehensive program review and 2) national accreditation. NJDOE, therefore, will grant approval to New Jersey IHEs that produce evidence of having achieved TEAC accreditation for each of their programs.

* Throughout this document, Inquiry Brief generally refers to both the Inquiry Brief and Inquiry Brief Proposal.
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NJDOE will review curriculum vitae of expert consultants that each IHE submits as nominees, and will provide a timely decision to enable each IHE to complete specialty standard requirements found in N.J.A.C. 6A-9-10 that IHE programs meet national specialty standards. The requirement to utilize NJDOE-approved expert consultants shall apply to all Educational Services and School Business Administrator certification programs. Other certification program specialty standards shall be met through the regular TEAC accreditation process.

NJDOE staff from the Bureau of Higher Education Quality Initiatives (HEQI), Office of Academic and Professional Standards, may observe and serve as consultants during the TEAC audit visit. HEQI staff may offer program and New Jersey contextual information during the audit process.

NJDOE staff may attend TEAC auditor and IHE training at no cost to NJDOE except for travel and lodging expenses.

NJDOE will cover HEQI Bureau travel expenses to and from the accreditation visit.

NJDOE may observe Accreditation Panel deliberations for New Jersey institutions.

NJDOE will inform TEAC of state regulations and actions taken relative to each New Jersey TEAC IHE.

TEAC Conditions:

TEAC will conduct the audit review of each New Jersey TEAC IHE on the cycle established by NJDOE.

TEAC will require that New Jersey Inquiry Briefs address specific components of New Jersey Administrative Code and Department regulations and standards to be identified by NJDOE in collaboration with TEAC.

TEAC will provide NJDOE with copies of the Audit Report and the Accreditation Panel Report.

IHE Conditions:

New Jersey TEAC institutions of higher education will follow requirements and timeliness for accreditation as provided in New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 6A-9).

Standards for Educational Services and School Business Administrator Certification Programs: To meet specialty standard requirements cited in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-10, each IHE will
either: a) use a recognized expert in the specialty to review the content of the program’s curriculum, or b) achieve and provide NJDOE with proof of official recognition from the designated learned society or professional association representing the specialty. If choosing a), the IHE will forward curriculum vitae or resumes of national consultants headquartered outside the state of New Jersey for approval as reviewers of programs affected by national standards for Educational Services and School Business Administrator certification programs. Consultants may not be employees of any New Jersey organization.

The IHE must forward the request for NJDOE approval of consultants at least three (3) months prior to the start of the desired period for which the IHE desires to use the services of the designated consultant. Vitae should clearly show evidence that each nominated consultant is a national expert in the specialty area.

After the IHE receives NJDOE approval, each consultant will conduct the specialty program review and will issue a review report to the IHE. Each IHE will then provide any specialty consultant’s report in an appendix to the Inquiry Brief, and will also provide two (2) copies of any consultant’s report to NJDOE. The IHE will follow TEAC formats in Inquiry Briefs and will forward two (2) copies of the Inquiry Briefs to NJDOE at the same time as they submit them to TEAC.

Each IHE will pay all expenses associated with the selection and use of the approved consultant.

Each IHE will notify NJDOE and TEAC of the IHE’s official contact person responsible for the accreditation process.

Each IHE will confirm dates of TEAC visits with the NJDOE HEQI Bureau prior to finalizing the scheduling of dates with TEAC.

Each IHE will pay all auditors’ fees, lodging, meal, and travel expenses of TEAC auditors for the accreditation visit.

Each IHE will pay all lodging and meal expenses for NJDOE HEQI Bureau representative(s). Each IHE will pay any NJDOE travel during the visit.

Other Conditions

TEAC and NJDOE will hold discussions at least semi-annually regarding accreditation efforts, processes, and needed adjustments during the period of this agreement.
Terms of Agreement

This agreement becomes effective upon the date of signature by both the Commissioner of Education and the TEAC President and shall remain valid through September 30, 2011.

Approval

The terms of this agreement have been read and understood by the persons whose signatures appear below. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the plan set forth herein.

Frank B. Murray, Ph. D.  

William T. Liberata, Ed. D.  

Date: October 14, 2004

Date