

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



**Agenda Item:** C                      **Date:** February 23, 2017

<b>Title</b>	First Review of Recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) to Revise the Definitions of At-Risk of Becoming Low-Performing and Low-Performing Institutions of Higher Education in Virginia as Required by Title II of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)		
<b>Presenter</b>	Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure		
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:Patty.Pitts@doe.virginia.gov">Patty.Pitts@doe.virginia.gov</a>	<b>Phone</b>	(804) 371-2522

**Purpose of Presentation:**

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

**Previous Review or Action:**

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

Date: September 26, 2001

Action: Final Review

Date: October 23, 2008

Action: First Review

Date: November 20, 2008

Action: Final Review

Date: April 28, 2011

Action: First Review

Date: May 19, 2011

Action: Final Review

**Action Requested:**

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

Date: March 23, 2017

**Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:**

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
X	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

Goal 5: The United States Department of Education requires that states must report institutions of higher education “at-risk of becoming low performing” or “low performing” annually pursuant to the teacher preparation program accountability system under Title II of the Higher Education Act. Title II federal reporting is required by states in October of each year.

**Board of Education Action in May 19, 2011**

The Board of Education *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Program in Virginia* provided three options for the accreditation of professional education programs: (1) National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); (2) Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC); and (3) Board of Education Approved Accreditation Process. On May 19, 2011, the Board of Education approved the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure’s recommendation and revised the following definitions of “at-risk of becoming low-performing” and “low-performing” institutions of higher education in Virginia to align with the accreditation decisions.

**DEFINITIONS OF “AT-RISK OF BECOMING LOW-PERFORMING” OR “LOW-PERFORMING” INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**Approved May 19, 2011**

ACCREDITATION OPTIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS RESULTING IN DESIGNATION OF “AT-RISK OF BECOMING LOW PERFORMING”	DEFINITION OF “LOW PERFORMING”
<p><u>Option I:</u> National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accreditation for five years<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Accreditation for seven years<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Accreditation for two years with a focused visit</li> <li>• Accreditation for two years with a full visit</li> <li>• Defer decision [Accreditation decision is deferred for six months.]</li> <li>• Deny accreditation</li> <li>• Revoke accreditation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accreditation for two years with a focused visit; or</li> <li>• Accreditation for two years with a full visit</li> </ul>	<p>An institution that has not made improvements by the end of the period designated by the accrediting body or not later than two years after receiving the designation of “at-risk of becoming low performing”</p> <p>When an institution receives the following designation, the “low-performing” designation will be removed: Accreditation for seven years.</p>
<p><u>Option II:</u> Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accreditation (ten years)</li> <li>• Accreditation (five years)</li> <li>• Accreditation (two years)</li> <li>• Initial accreditation (five years)</li> <li>• Initial accreditation (two years)</li> <li>• Deny</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accreditation (two years)</li> <li>• Initial Accreditation (two years)</li> </ul>	<p>An institution that has not made improvements by the end of the period designated by the accrediting body or not later than two years after receiving the designation of “at-risk of becoming low performing”</p> <p>When an institution receives the following designation, the “low-performing” designation will be removed: Accreditation (ten or five years).</p>

<sup>1</sup>All standards are met, no serious problems exist across standards, and the state retains a five-year cycle.

<sup>2</sup>All standards are met and no serious problems exist across standards. (Note: Virginia maintains a seven-year cycle.)

ACCREDITATION OPTIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS RESULTING IN DESIGNATION OF “AT-RISK OF BECOMING LOW PERFORMING”	DEFINITION OF “LOW PERFORMING”
Option III: Board of Education (BOE) Approved Accreditation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accredited</li> <li>Accredited with Stipulations</li> <li>Accreditation Denied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accredited with Stipulations</li> </ul>	<p>An institution that has not made improvements by the end of the period designated by the accrediting body or not later than two years after receiving the designation of “at-risk of becoming low performing”</p> <p>When an institution receives the following designation, the “low-performing” designation will be removed: Accredited.</p>

**Summary of Important Issues:**

On July 1, 2013, the De Facto Consolidation of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) created the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). CAEP is now the unified national accrediting organization for educator preparation. Based on Virginia’s 2016 signed partnership agreement with CAEP and changes made to accreditation program review decision designations by CAEP, the definitions for “at-risk of becoming low-performing” and “low-performing” institutions of higher education in Virginia need to be realigned.

On January 23, 2017, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure unanimously approved the following recommendation to revise the definitions of “at-risk of becoming low-performing” and “low-performing” institutions of higher education in Virginia as required by Title II of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA).

**Recommendation by ABTEL on January 23, 2017**

**DEFINITIONS OF “AT-RISK OF BECOMING LOW-PERFORMING” OR “LOW-PERFORMING” INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

ACCREDITATION OPTIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS RESULTING IN DESIGNATION OF “AT-RISK OF BECOMING LOW PERFORMING”	DEFINITION OF “LOW PERFORMING”
Option I: Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Accreditation for seven years</li> <li>Full Accreditation for seven years<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Probationary Accreditation for two years<sup>4</sup></li> <li>Denial of Initial Accreditation<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Probationary Accreditation for two years</li> </ul>	<p>An institution that has not made improvements by the end of the period designated by the accrediting body or not later than two years after receiving the designation of “at-risk of becoming low performing”</p>

<sup>3</sup> All five standards are met (previously accredited by CAEP, NCATE or TEAC; no serious problems exist across standards, and retain a seven-year accreditation cycle).

<sup>4</sup> All but one standard met (reaccredited for a period of two years).

<sup>5</sup> Accreditation is denied to providers seeking initial accreditation that fall below CAEP standards.

ACCREDITATION OPTIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS	ACCREDITATION DECISIONS RESULTING IN DESIGNATION OF “AT-RISK OF BECOMING LOW PERFORMING”	DEFINITION OF “LOW PERFORMING”
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revocation of Accreditation<sup>6</sup></li> <li>Exemplary or “Gold” Accreditation<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>		When an institution receives the following designation, the low-performing designation will be removed: Full Accreditation.
Option II: Board of Education (BOE) Approved Accreditation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accredited</li> <li>Accredited with Stipulations</li> <li>Accreditation Denied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accredited with Stipulations</li> </ul>	<p>An institution that has not made improvements by the end of the period designated by the accrediting body or not later than two years after receiving the designation of “at-risk of becoming low performing”</p> <p>When an institution receives the following designation, the “low-performing” designation will be removed: Accredited.</p>

If an institution’s accreditation is **revoked or denied**, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) will be notified for appropriate action. The *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*, (8VAC20-542-20), effective September 21, 2007, and amended January 19, 2011, stipulate that “If a professional education program fails to maintain accreditation, enrolled candidates shall be permitted to complete their programs of study. Professional education programs shall not admit new candidates. Candidates shall be notified of program approval status.”

Under the Title II regulations, all states are required to implement a system to assess the quality of each teacher preparation program. New federal regulations, effective November 30, 2016, require that each state must differentiate programs using at least three performance levels, no later than October 31, 2019. The federal regulations include a new performance level of “effective,” as well as definitions of “at-risk of becoming a low-performing institution of higher education” and “low-performing institution of higher education.” However, to comply with current reporting requirements, the definitions must be aligned with the accreditation option for CAEP.

Title II federal reporting is required by states in October of each year. Institutions meeting these definitions at the end of the reporting year will be designated “at-risk of becoming a low-performing” or “low-performing” institution of higher education.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

There is minimum impact on resources.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

This item will be presented to the Board of Education for final review at the March 23, 2017, meeting.

<sup>6</sup> Accreditation is revoked. EPP failed to meet two or more of the CAEP Standards. Used with EPPs that has been previously accredited by CAEP, NCATE or TEAC.

<sup>7</sup> Meet all CAEP standards and surpass those guidelines for a combination of standards (only awarded to a small number of providers).

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for first review the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's recommendation to revise the definitions of "at-risk of becoming low-performing" and "low-performing" institutions of higher education in Virginia as required by Title II of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA).