



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

Stephen L. Bowen
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: # VI.D.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Stephen L. Bowen, Commissioner*

DATE: April 11, 2012

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Board Approved Stakeholders Group Recommended Revisions to Chapter 114 Rules for Title 20-A, 05-071, Chapter 114, Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel

PURPOSE:

The preparation of educators cannot be a static process in an ever-changing environment. Maine higher education units with programs that have been approved for this purpose are expected to be dynamic, to strive for continuous improvement, and to utilize the outcomes of new knowledge, practices, and technologies. They are expected to be involved in a process in which faculty and administrators, in collaboration with practitioners, are thinking and talking about the preparation of teachers and other educators. They are expected to be committed to assuring that teacher candidates are prepared with the knowledge and skills necessary to assist Maine students to meet the Learning Results. They are expected to collect and analyze data about their effectiveness, and make changes to improve their programs. They are expected to be engaged in ongoing self-assessment in which they assess the needs of schools and candidates, identify potential problems and points of vulnerability, and develop strategies for becoming more effective. The evolving world of education and educational reforms demands continuous development of education programs. For this reason, program approval must be initially conducted and periodically revisited.

All units preparing educators for initial certification must have State Board of Education approved programs. Successful completion of an approved program entitles an individual to be recommended for certification in the appropriate categories for which the unit is approved. Following a unit's initial approval to offer educator preparation programs, approval must be reaffirmed every five (5) or seven (7) years, so long as a unit continues to satisfy the standards and requirements as established by the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education and the Department of Education are committed to promoting the development of innovative and collaborative practices in programs for the preparation of education personnel. The six program approval standards encourage

innovations and interactive practices in such areas as gender equity, cultural diversity, involvement of parents and community and to preparing educational personnel. Additionally, the Board and the Department clearly support innovation in unit/school relationships in areas such as collaborative program development, and school- and classroom-based research. These innovative and collaborative approaches must be evident in unit policies and practices.

BACKGROUND:

During the November 10, 2010 meeting of the Maine State Board of Education the Board resolved to establish a Stakeholders Group to Conduct a Comprehensive review of Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Chapter 114 last underwent a comprehensive review in 2006 resulting in a number substantive changes and necessary upgrades. Since that time it became apparent that a number of changes to this rule needed to be made. The Group's charge was to examine all elements of the current rule and to submit a report of its findings, along with recommended changes, to the State Board for consideration and appropriate action. It was established that the Stakeholders Group would:

- Be comprised primarily of those who would be most directly affected by the outcomes of this process (i.e. both education preparation program administrators and faculty – taking into account both private and public programs as well as the geographic distribution of existing programs in Maine;
- Be limited to no more than 20 members;
- Have three (3) State Board members – and these Board members would be active contributors;
- Be given one year to complete its work; it was envisioned that the Stakeholders Group would meet once per month, beginning in February, 2011, using both in-person and electronic meeting modes.
- Develop its report of recommendations for the Board through a consensus-building process;
- Have Co-Chairs; and
- Be assisted by Harry Osgood, who would provide support to the Group throughout this effort.

Because of inclement weather conditions both the State Board's January and February meetings had to be cancelled. During the March 9, 2011 meeting the State Board approved the recommended list of members for the Chapter 114 Stakeholders Group and designated Dr. Kathy Yardley, Associate Provost and Dean of Education, University of Maine at Farmington and Dr. Thomas Edwards, Provost and Coordinator of the Education Department at Thomas College to serve as the Group's Co-Chairs. Further: The Board specified that the Stakeholders Group would be tasked with completing its work no later than March 30, 2012.

2011- 2012 Chapter 114 Stakeholders Group Membership:

The State Board approved Stakeholders Group has been as follows:

- 1) Dr. Kathy Yardley, Associate Provost and Dean of Education, UMF, **Co-Chair**

- 2) Dr. Thomas Edwards, V.P. for Academic Affairs and Coordinator, Teacher Education Program, Thomas College, **Co-Chair**
- 3) Nancy Perkins, State Board Member
- 4) Jana Lapoint, State Board Member
- 5) Dr. Dorothy Martin, State Board Member
- 6) Dr. Mark Tappan, Director and Faculty, Teacher Certification Program, Colby College
- 7) Dr. Gerry Saunders, Director and Faculty, Teacher Education Program, Unity College
- 8) Barbara Moody, Director, Teacher Education Program, Husson University
- 9) Mark Cyr, Certification Coordinator, MDOE
- 10) Dr. Susan Hillman, Professor of Education, UNE
- 11) Dr. Roland Caron, Coordinator of Teacher Education Programs, UMFK, Former Superintendent of Ashland Public Schools
- 12) Dr. Paula Tingley, Former Director of Guidance, Bangor High School
- 13) Dr. Gael Romei, Coordinator and Faculty, Teacher Education Program, UMM
- 14) Pamela Kimball, Field Experiences and Certification Program Director, UMO
- 15) Dr. Philomena McPhee-Brown, Professor of Education, Thomas College
- 16) Dr. Catherine Fallona, Director and Faculty, Teacher Education Program, USM
- 17) Heidi-Broad-Smith, Instructor, Early Childhood Education, NMCC
- 18) Dr. Donald Siviski, Superintendent of Public Instruction, MDOE, former Superintendent of Schools, RSU 2
- 19) Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist, MDOE

Role of the 2011 Chapter 114 Stakeholders Group Members:

The Chapter 114 Stakeholders' Group was to be a representative assembly comprised of educator preparation program decision-makers, educator preparation faculty, field experience and clinical practice coordinators, community college feeder program representatives, some State Board of Education members, and Maine Department of Education personnel responsible for State program approvals, educator certification and in-service professional development.

The members of the Stakeholders' Group were requested to review and assess current provisions, as specified in Chapter 114, and to provide specialist advice regarding recommended areas for improvement to the State Board. These areas were to draw upon initiatives currently in place, being established or under consideration including various projects, studies, and working groups.

Deadline for the 2011 Stakeholders Group Report:

The Stakeholders Group was charged to compile and submit a report of its findings to the Maine State Board of Education by March 30, 2012. The report was to focus upon the effectiveness of the Board's current practices and to make specific recommendations as to how the Board's procedures and program approval standards may best be improved.

Submission of the Chapter 114 Stakeholders Group Report

After more than a year of deliberations final wording of specific recommendations as to how the Board's procedures and program approval standards may best be improved were consensually arrived at the during the Chapter 114 Stakeholders Group's last meeting held March 21, 2012.

The Chapter 114 Stakeholders Group's recommendations have been compiled and are hereby respectfully submitted to the Maine State Board of Education for its review and consideration.

The document appears with strikethroughs for changes to or deletion of language (~~strikethroughs for changes to or deletion of language~~) and underscoring for language that is new (underscoring for language that is new). Language to be retained has neither strikethroughs nor underscoring.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive the summary report containing recommended revisions to rule from the Board's appointed Chapter 114 Stakeholders Group. It is further recommended that the Board direct this report to the Board's Sub-Committee on Certification and Higher Education for a thorough vetting of its contents.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood,
Higher Education Specialist