



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

Stephen L. Bowen  
COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT: # VI.B.**

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Stephen L. Bowen, Commissioner\*

**DATE:** April 11, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Receipt of the Report of Findings Concerning the Thomas College Request to Add an Early Childhood Program to Its Existing State Approved Educator Preparation Programs.

In accordance with Title 20A, Chapter 114 setting forth Maine State Board of Education procedures and standards relating to the review and approval of educator preparation programs, an application was received from Thomas College for a review of its recently initiated Early Childhood Education program and for approval to add this program to its existing State approved offerings.

When such requests are made, Chapter 114, §3.10, a) stipulates that “Units with approved programs may seek approval for new programs or for major revisions to existing programs during the term of an approval cycle. The procedures for seeking approval in either situation are as follows: “a) Introduction of new programs. In the event that a unit introduces a new program the unit shall provide documentation that the new program demonstrates compliance with Subsection 2 (Standard 2.1 – Initial Teacher (Educator) Candidate Performance, Standard 2.3 – Field Experiences and Clinical Practice, Standard 2.5 – Faculty Qualifications, Performance and Development, and Standard 2.6 – Unit Governance and Resources) with respect to each endorsement and/or certificate as to which approval is sought. b) Evidence of compliance shall be reviewed by the Department liaison person rather than by a visitation team as provided in section 3.2 of this rule. However, the Department liaison person, with assistance of such additional personnel as are required, may visit the unit to review the evidence submitted.”

During an on-campus visit on March 15, 2012 the Early Childhood Education program was reviewed by Harry Osgood, the Department’s Higher Education Specialist and by Jaci Holmes, who, in addition to being the Department’s State/Federal Liaison Officer, is credentialed at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in Early Childhood Education. Through interviews with the applicant faculty, administration, cooperating teachers, enrolled students, and school visits it was validated that program elements clearly meet the Board’s program standards. Following the visit a report of findings was prepared for distribution to and consideration by the State Board of Education

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the report of findings for the Thomas College application to add Early Childhood Education to its approved program offerings. This matter will appear as an agenda item for the June 13, 2012 meeting of the Board.

\*Prepared by Harry Osgood,  
Higher Education Specialist