This agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) with regard to quality assurance activities in support of educator preparation in the State of Indiana. The purpose of this agreement is to support quality assurance, continuous improvement, and innovation in educator preparation by entities approved by the Indiana Department of Education as they seek and maintain national accreditation through AAQEP.

AAQEP affirms IDOE’s efforts to ensure quality preparation of educators to meet the needs of Indiana’s children, families, schools, and communities and commits to ensuring quality educator preparation by providers approved by IDOE. By entering this agreement, IDOE affirms AAQEP’s mission of promoting and recognizing quality educator preparation that strengthens the education profession’s ability to serve all students, schools, and communities.

1. Standards Used in Quality Assurance Reviews
Quality Assurance Reviews conducted by AAQEP in Indiana will be guided by the current version of the AAQEP standards (available at [https://aaqep.org](https://aaqep.org)) and in keeping with AAQEP policy regarding the application of those standards. In conducting reviews of programs approved by IDOE AAQEP will require that all relevant Indiana standards and requirements be addressed.

In addition, providers are welcome to orient their Quality Assurance Review to other relevant professional standards (for example, those from professional associations such as the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), the International Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), etc.).

2. Scope of Quality Assurance Reviews
The scope of AAQEP accreditation sought by providers in Indiana must include all programs registered with or recognized by the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana State Board of Education that require continuous accreditation as specified in IC 20-28-3-1 and 511 IAC 13-1-1. In addition to programs specified above, the provider may, at its discretion, choose to include additional programs of study leading to a degree or certificate designed for those intending to work as, or already working as, educational professionals. For such programs of study, where no Indiana standards are specified, the provider shall identify any standards in addition to the AAQEP standards to which its program(s) is (are) aligned.

3. Quality Assurance Review Process
All Quality Assurance Reviews conducted by AAQEP will be guided by AAQEP’s policies and procedures as specified in the Guide to Accreditation, available at [https://aaqep.org](https://aaqep.org). AAQEP’s process includes an optional proposal review stage two to three years prior to a scheduled site visit. All Quality Assurance Reviews include an off-site review two months prior to each site visit, conducted virtually, which IDOE staff are welcome to attend, and an on-site visit, the scope of which is determined by program size and complexity.
4. Quality Assurance Review Team Composition
AAQEP will appoint a sufficient number of Quality Assurance Review Team members to each review case to ensure that the review is carried out thoroughly and efficiently. Each AAQEP review team will include at least one educational practitioner from Indiana nominated by the provider hosting the review and approved by the State; that practitioner will receive training and support from AAQEP. The local practitioner(s) will support the review team’s understanding of and respect for the local and Indiana educational context.

In addition to the AAQEP-appointed members, one or more IDOE staff member(s) may participate as observers. Other observers, including those seeking a better understanding of the AAQEP process, may participate as agreed to by AAQEP and the host provider.

5. Reviewer Preparation and Qualifications
All review team members will meet AAQEP preparation and quality requirements. Reviewer training and professional learning opportunities will be made available to IDOE staff at no cost (though AAQEP will not cover travel expenses); IDOE observers need not have participated in the training as a condition for joining review teams as observers.

6. Relation of Accreditation to Program Approval
The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is responsible for implementing a regular review process for all new and existing Indiana Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs), including each individual licensure program housed within an EPP. IDOE shares the results of each review with the Indiana State Board of Education along with a recommendation regarding continued state approval status. While IDOE ensures program review and recommends program approval status, the Indiana State Board of Education holds all final authority in terms of state accreditation status and duration.

An EPP that is subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Indiana must choose from among any of the following program review options for each approved program as part of the AAQEP accreditation process:

a. Specialty Program Review with National Recognition. The goal of the specialized professional association (SPA) Program Review with National Recognition is to align specialty licensure area data with national standards developed by SPAs in order to receive national recognition at the program level. The State makes the final decision on the approval of any program.

b. State Review by State Authority. The State conducts program reviews for purposes of State approval and to inform AAQEP Accreditation. An EPP undergoing the State Review option will follow State guidelines. The State provides forms and instructions on how to meet all State standards for licensure/certificate program approval. Upon an EPP’s completion of the State authority forms, trained reviewers are selected and assigned within appropriate content areas. Reviewers make recommendations for further action and/or approval. The State makes the final decision on the approval of any program.

c. AAQEP Program Performance Review. AAQEP provides a means for accomplishing both EPP accreditation and program review simultaneously based on the preparation of a single report. This assures that program-level review is based on the most current available evidence and the EPP and program-level evaluation and planning are integrated. Program performance review is based on the disaggregated evidence presented in the standard AAQEP Quality Assurance Report, supplemented by additional analysis by programs that is appended to the report. The review addresses program-specific standards alignment and evidence regarding content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, instructional performance, and includes analysis of program-specific data and planning for improvement based on that data. The State makes the
final decision on the approval of any program.

7. Accreditation Decisions
AAQEP accreditation decisions are made by the AAQEP Accreditation Commission accreditation statuses and terms are detailed in AAQEP’s Guide and policy documents, available at https://aaqep.org. Full accreditation is for a term of 7 years. Observers from IDOE are welcome to attend meetings of the Accreditation Commission at which cases of Indiana providers are considered (meetings are typically conducted via video conference). Accreditation decisions, including the reports on which decisions are based and the Accreditation Commission’s rationale for each decision, will be shared with the designated office at IDOE, which for purposes of this agreement is via email.

An EPP for which the Accreditation Commission issues a decision to deny or revoke accreditation may have a right to petition for an appeal subject to the Appeals Policy. EPPs for which an appeal is denied must wait at least one calendar year after the date of the original denial or revocation before reapplying as a new EPP via the new EPP approval process outlined by the State.

8. Communication and Logistics of Collaboration
Providers seeking AAQEP accreditation will ensure that IDOE is apprised of the schedule of accreditation activities, particularly of target site visit dates; providers will also send electronically a final copy of or links to the final version of their Quality Assurance Report (the self-study) to IDOE at the same time they provide it to AAQEP.

AAQEP will communicate scheduled times of its off-site and on-site reviews with IDOE staff as specified in the agreement. Where joint or concurrent visits are desired, the agreement will specify how logistics will be coordinated, with associated timelines. AAQEP will also apprise designated IDOE staff of the schedule of Accreditation Commission meetings at which cases from Indiana providers will be considered. In addition, AAQEP will provide designated IDOE staff with copies of all reports or official letters for Indiana providers generated by the review team and by the Accreditation Commission.

9. AAQEP Capacity Review and Formative Support Options
AAQEP will make available to Indiana providers, in cooperation with and at the discretion of IDOE, two additional services:

- At IDOE’s request, AAQEP will conduct capacity reviews of entities seeking first-time approval as an educator preparation provider. Such reviews will be conducted prior to the operation of the program to provide IDOE with a third-party review to inform a program approval decision. Such reviews will be designed and conducted in partnership with IDOE using the AAQEP standards as the framework.

- AAQEP also facilitates program and provider improvement for entities that have identified specific shortcomings in their work, including cases where shortcomings have been identified through external evaluations such as Indiana or accreditation reviews. AAQEP will enter into an agreement with the provider and IDOE to establish a timeline, priorities, and outcomes for such reviews.
AAQEP views cooperation among accreditors, educator preparation providers, and IDOE as essential to effective quality assurance. It enters into this agreement with the intent of supporting both IDOE and providers authorized by it in ensuring the preparation of excellent and effective teachers and other professional educators. IDOE agrees to join AAQEP as an Indiana member at no cost in support of these goals.

In support of shared goals, AAQEP will provide supportive services including workshops and webinars to providers in Indiana at a reasonable cost. IDOE staff may participate in any AAQEP activities offered within Indiana at no cost (AAQEP cannot cover travel expenses, meals, or lodging). AAQEP will also provide one IDOE staff member with a no-cost registration to its annual Quality Assurance Symposium and provide any additional IDOE staff registration at the reduced member rate. In addition, IDOE staff may participate in AAQEP professional learning events, including reviewer training, at no cost (travel, etc., excepted, as above).

This agreement is valid from the date of the latest signature below through June 2027, unless otherwise amended by the mutual agreement of AAQEP and the Indiana Department of Education.

Mark LaCelle-Peterson  8_18_2022  Brian M. Murphy
CEO and President,  Date  Chief of Staff, Indiana Department of
AAQEP  

Education/Indiana State Board of
Education