



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

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: VII. D.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: February 11, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of the University of Maine at Farmington Review Team Report for the Early Childhood Birth to Age 5 Program.

BACKGROUND: In accordance with State of Maine Education Statute Title 20A, and State policies 05-071-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 the University of Maine at Farmington, College of Education, Health and Rehabilitation to introduce a new program to its existing approved programs. When such requests are made, Chapter 114, §3.10, a) stipulates that “. . . the unit shall provide documentation that the new program demonstrates compliance with Subsection 2 (Standard 2.1 – Initial Teacher 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. 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.” A visiting team comprised of Dr. Jeannie Hamrin, Associate Professor and Teaching Fellow, Husson University; Jaci Holmes, Federal/State Legislative Liaison, Maine Department of Education; Mary Ellin Logue, Assistant Professor, Child Development and Family Relations, Early Childhood Development, University of Maine; and Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist, Maine Department of Education met with the applicant on December 2, 2008 in Farmington, Maine.

The Early Childhood Education Program (ECH) at the University of Maine at Farmington has a tradition of preparing candidates to work with young children from birth to age eight and their families. Prior to implementation of the new Teacher of Young Children Certificate (081), candidates in the Early Childhood Education Program could choose to be certified in K-3 and receive a State of Maine 029 certificate upon completion of program requirements. With the institution of the new Teacher of Young Children Certificate, the University of Maine at Farmington ECH Program recognized the need to seek program approval so that graduates could immediately move into the field and be certified by the State to work with children from birth through age 5. The approval of this degree option will allow graduates to teach in a variety of early childhood settings, including inclusive pre-kindergarten classrooms located in public schools.

The Review Team's report of findings was distributed and received by State Board members during the January 14, 2009 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the University of Maine at Farmington Review Team Report for the Early Childhood Birth to Age 5 Program. With the Board's approval this program will be folded into the University's State approved authorizations and would be revisited during the College's State/NCATE joint visit which is scheduled for October 2 – 6, 2010.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
Higher Education Specialist