



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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IX.C

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Michael T. Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, Maine Department of Education, on behalf of Commissioner Pender Makin

DATE: March 13, 2024

SUBJECT: Request to Extend Existing Approval of the Eastern Maine Community College Educator Preparation Program by Twenty-Four Months

BACKGROUND:

Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC) is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Fall 2019 to Fall 2024.

On October 2, 2023, EMCC President Elizabeth Russell and Education Department Chair Megan London submitted a letter to the State Board of Education requesting a twenty-four month extension of EMCC's EPP approval. According to the letter, two primary factors are driving their request for an extension:

- (1) The program is in the process of revising their offerings in response to new certification requirements as presented in Rule Chapter 115; they expect these updates will be fully implemented by Fall 2024. A later review date will allow EMCC to collect data concerning student outcomes and to use that data as evidence of the updated program's effectiveness.
- (2) A small program, they are currently navigating staff transitions, including one faculty member supporting the college as the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. These transitions have affected the timeline for programmatic updates as well as their capacity to engage with the self-reporting process.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that "requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education."

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on February 21, 2024, and voted unanimously to approve EMCC's request to extend their EPP approval through Fall 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve Eastern Maine Community College's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twenty-four months.



To: Members of the State Board of Education
From: Megan London, Education Department Chair
Elizabeth Russell, President
RE: Request to defer State Review Timeline
Date: October 2, 2023

Due to several circumstances, on behalf of EMCC's Education Department, I respectfully request that EMCC be allowed to delay its State Approval Self-Study visit.

Maine's Chapter 114 addresses the request for an extension in 3.11 e.

e) Requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education; however, such extensions shall not extend the date when the subsequent approval is due. The Board will only consider such requests in emergency situations.

The primary factors driving EMCC's request are as follows:

- The transition to new certification requirements as presented in Chapter 115: We are working to revise aspects of our degree program sequence and curriculum to respond to changes. These revisions will be implemented in the Fall of 2024, and given this, there will be a need for time to gather data on the functionality and success of each revised course and pathway. While we consistently collect, analyze, discuss, and share data related to our program pathways, the information that we would share if the self-study visit occurred in 2024 would be data gathered on the structure of past programming rather than the new structure that will exist, and therefore, the review would not be as useful to us regarding our future work to improve programs.
- We are a relatively small department with 3 full-time faculty, and we have experienced some transitions in the last two years. We have a new faculty member who is starting her second year this year after our long-standing Education faculty member retired; we are continuing to orient her to the position. Additionally, another faculty member has just returned to the department after supporting the college as the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs this past year as the college worked to fill the position. These transitions have not impacted our data gathering or the delivery of our programs in negative ways, but they have caused us to hold off on our pathway revisions until this year.

EMCC prides itself on its responsiveness to community and workforce needs, and the quality of its degree programming, and we are committed to remaining in good standing with Chapter 114 requirements. To truly engage in a thoughtful and reflective self-study and align our assessments with the programs we are implementing in September 2024, we respectfully request a 2-year extension. We recognize that an extension will reduce the timeline for the subsequent self-study and site visit. We also recognize that we will need to adhere to the current timeline should we not receive approval from you.

We are more than happy to respond to your questions and appreciate your consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Russell".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan London".

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