



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the November 19, 2025 Meeting

Members present: Tori Kornfield, Vicky Cohen, and Tom Keller, Chair
Members absent: Denham Ward
Staff present: Erica Tompkins

- I. **Call to order** - The chair called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.
- II. **Review of minutes** - The minutes from the October 22, 2025 meeting were reviewed. No changes were made and the committee voted unanimously to accept them.
- III. **Public Comment** - No public comments were offered.

IV. Higher Education update -

Michael Perry provided updates on several ongoing and upcoming reviews, including those for the University of New England, University of Maine at Augusta, and Maine College of Art and Design, all of which were completed and will be voted on by the state board in December. He explained the unique process for the University of Maine at Farmington's review, which involves a parallel CAEP and state review due to the integration of CAEP standards with state standards. Michael also discussed two institutions seeking temporary degree-granting authorization: the Classic Planning Academy, which aims to offer online PhDs in neoclassical architecture, and Northeastern University's Roux Institute, which wishes to transition from temporary program approval to full degree authorization. The state board will review these applications and make recommendations for temporary approval.

Michael discussed progress on Beal University's review, including the submission of additional evidence and plans for virtual interviews and campus visits.

Denham had indicated that he would like to re-draft the Annual EPP Report format and would have a draft available for the regular December meeting.

V. Certification update

Erin Reinhard presented certification statistics for October, noting a slight increase compared to the previous year and consistent processing times. The team discussed certification violations, with Erin mentioning her efforts to address high-violation schools and the need for a full report

by January. Tom expressed interest in learning more about which districts have the most violations. Erin was to mention to Michael the interest in a full report on certification violations, particularly trends in large district, for possible presentation in January.

VI. TEAMe and EPP report

Jane Loxterkamp from EMCC providing an update on TEAM activities, replacing Linda Fuller who had a scheduling conflict. TEAMe met last Friday and appreciated Tom Keller's attendance and willingness to have open discussion. Topics included Chapter 115 revisions, accountability for various pathways and Chapter 114, and certification processes where sometimes courses are accepted and sometimes not. Jane and Erin discussed the differences between EPP-approved courses and certification requirements, highlighting the need for consistency and communication. Tom and Vicky raised questions about the approval process for courses.

VII. Other business

Chapter 115 revisions - The meeting focused on discussions about Chapter 114 and 115, with an emphasis on certification processes and challenges. The committee reviewed public comments on Chapter 115, with Tom planning to work with Paulette on potential revisions. A special meeting was scheduled for December 2nd to consider approving revisions to Chapter 115.

Numeracy and Literacy Plans - Tom mentioned ongoing efforts to address numeracy and literacy plans.

December 17 - The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 17. Tom said he would consider whether to cancel the December 17th regular meeting if there is no pressing business. Vicky is unable to attend.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.