



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IX.A.

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: May 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of Colby Educator Preparation Programs in Accordance with Rule
Chapter 114

BACKGROUND:

Educator preparation programs (EPPs) offered by institutions of higher education in Maine are approved by the State Board of Education following the guidelines laid out by Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*. Approved EPPs are able to recommend graduates for eligibility to earn certification under "Pathway 1" in Rule Chapter 115 for the specific certification areas included in their review.

Colby College in Waterville, Maine, last received a five-year approval of its educator preparation programs in 2020. The program applied for reapproval in 2024 and submitted a self-assessment report indicating their adherence to the EPP standards in Rule Chapter 114. A review team chaired by Linda Fuller, MEd, of the College of the Atlantic was approved by the State Board of Education on March 12, 2025, with James E. Ford assigned as the State Board observer.

The formal in-person review of Colby College's educator preparation programs took place between March 16-19, 2025. The review team finalized consensus findings and recommendations for the State Board of Education, and a draft of their report was reviewed by Colby EPP staff to verify factual accuracy and to provide any feedback or response to the review team's findings. Upon the finalization of the review team report, a copy was formally received by the State Board of Education during its regular meeting on April 9, 2025, along with the program's self-report materials, in accordance with Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11.

The review team has recommended five-year approval of Colby's existing programs currently up for renewal: Secondary English/Language Arts (100), Social Studies (200), Mathematics (300), Physical Science (350), and Life Science (395), and PK-12 World Languages.

The review team has further recommended an initial two-year approval of Colby's new PK-12 educator preparation programs: Dance (517), Music (614), Art (620), and Theater (625). At a later date – and upon Colby's submission of a satisfactory two-year report to the State Board, no later than July 1, 2027, showing that the unit's intended development of these programs has come to fruition, including subject-specific methods content – the review team has recommended that the State Board vote to continue the approval of these programs for the remainder of Colby's five-year approval cycle.

Now, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, it is before the State Board of Education whether to accept the review team's recommendations and approve Colby College's educator preparation programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11, paragraph d, the State Board of Education accept the Colby College EPP review team's recommendations to grant a five-year approval to Colby's renewing educator preparation programs for the period of Fall 2024 through Fall 2029; and further, that the State Board of Education accept the review team's recommendation to grant a two-year approval to Colby's new educator preparation programs in Dance, Music, Art, and Theatre, for the period of Spring 2025 through Spring 2027 with an interim report to be submitted no later than July 1, 2027, for the Board's subsequent consideration of continued approval for the remainder of Colby's five-year approval cycle.