

**Review Committee Summary Report:
Recommendation for Approving Programs Adequate Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C)**

Program Provider:
New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning

Required Evaluation Measures:
Substantial Alignment to West Virginia Pedagogical Standards

Program Application:

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) received an application from Executive Director, Dr. Robert Goodman, on March 11, 2024, requesting the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) approve the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning program as adequately pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C) and WVBE Policies (e.g., 5901). The proposal was revised on March 28, 2024, to address WVDE committee feedback before being recommended to the WVBE. The program is offered by the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning, an institution of higher education seeking WASC Senior College and University Commission accreditation. Their current licensure programs in New Jersey received initial accreditation from the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) in early 2024. As the institution is not regionally accredited, while completion of the proposed program's required coursework provides participants credit for use within the institution, it would not result in college credit recognized elsewhere unless an articulation agreement were to be made in the future with an accredited institution of higher education.

The New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education as a program provider for initial teacher certification in the state of New Jersey. The application requests approval to provide an Option 3 program in West Virginia for the endorsements of Mathematics 5-Adult, General Mathematics Through Algebra I 5-9, Physics 9-Adult, Biology 9-Adult, Chemistry 9-Adult and General Science 5-Adult. Program participants are not required to meet basic skills and content testing requirements prior to enrollment, but they must complete the required basic skills, content, and professional education exams by the end of the program. While it is expected participants will pass all required exams completed during the program, they can use exemption criteria and will be allowed time beyond successful program completion to pass required exams in accordance with WVBE Policy 5202 and the WV Licensure Testing Directory.

The program consists of 100% online coursework designed to prepare participants to become educators. Students may utilize pacing guides found on the program's website to keep themselves on track. There is no minimum or maximum length of time to complete a program if participants maintain continuous progress including, but not limited to, monthly progress in online courses. Students making no progress within a 60-day period are considered inactive and will need to notify their instructors when they are ready to resume coursework, as students may be required to recomplete assignments within a course or complete a new course if the course they began has been discontinued. The expected duration of the program from enrollment to completion is between 6 and 18 months. All substantial modifications proposed to be made to required coursework in the future will be submitted to the WVDE in advance for approval before implementation.

While the courses a program participant must successfully complete vary according to the endorsement they are seeking, every participant is required to complete a 4 semester hour methods course, which covers many of the pedagogical concepts required for demonstrating substantial alignment to InTASC standards. The course syllabi mentions that students will learn best practices for curriculum, pedagogy, technology, formative and summative assessment, grading, pacing and how those are woven together to create a highly effective teaching and learning environment. Specific topics include best practices for brief direct instruction, inquiry, modeling, facilitating group discussion, social constructivism and frequent formative assessment, inquiry-based science labs, mastery-based summative assessment, appropriate use of retakes to encourage persistence and mastery. Instruction also focuses on the use of student polling devices designed to drive instruction through formative assessment.

In addition to the methods course, there are other endorsement specific courses covering content and pedagogy. The Physics 9-Adult endorsement requires 5 classes at 3 semester hours for a total of 19 semester hours, the Chemistry 9-Adult endorsement requires 5 classes at 3 semester hours for a total of 19 semester hours, the Biology 9-Adult endorsement requires 5 classes at 3 semester hours for a total of 19 semester hours, the Mathematics 5-Adult endorsement requires 4 classes at 4 semester hours and 4 classes at 3 semester hours for a total of 32 semester hours, the General Mathematics through Algebra I 5-9 endorsement requires 3 classes at 4 semester hours and 1 class at 2 semester hours for a total of 18 semester hours, the General Science 5-Adult endorsement requires 4 classes at 3 semester hours 16 semester hours. There is no clinical experience and participants will be required to meet all applicable WVBE professional education exam requirements upon program completion as described in the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory. The program is designed to prepare students for success in passing the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching exam, which may be used to pursue a non-transferable Professional Teaching Certificate.

The complete cost of the program varies in accordance with the endorsement area participants are seeking and its required classes. Currently one semester hour of credit costs \$195.00, two semester hours is \$390.00, three semester hours is \$585.00, and four semester hours is \$780.00. Therefore, the total cost of classes identified pursuant to Physics 9-Adult is \$3,705.00, Chemistry 9-Adult is \$3,705.00, Biology 9-Adult is \$3,705.00, Mathematics 5-Adult is \$6,240.00, General Mathematics through Algebra I 5-9 is \$3,510.00, and General Science 5-Adult is \$3,120.00. There are no other fees or costs for textbooks for participants. There are also no costs to county school districts or other entities unless they choose to subsidize expenses for a student.

Individuals participating in the program must meet all requirements of WVBE Policy 5202 and the WV Licensure Testing Directory to receive initial teacher certification. This includes, but is not limited to, requirements of enrollment, participation and completion of the program, a bachelor's degree with a qualifying overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) (or meeting a qualifying GPA exemption), meeting proficiency on basic skills exams (or meeting a qualifying exemption) and endorsement specific content (subject area) exams (or meeting a qualifying exemption) and professional education exams (or meeting a qualifying exemption), and meeting general requirements with successful outcomes on background checks to obtain initial teacher licensure. Requirements for program entry must be reflective of a program provider's role in providing participants the qualifications to acquire licensure as described in WVBE Policy 5202, as individuals who are unable to successfully meet policy requirements upon participation or completion of the program will not be issued a license

or certificate. The program provider agrees to operate in accordance with the application, state policies and code. As revisions to state policies and code occur, the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning assures modifications will be made to comply and will notify the WVDE of any changes to the program. W. Va. Code §18A-3-2a(a)(4) provides that teaching certificates granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C) are equivalent to certificates granted to graduates of teacher preparation programs at public higher education institutions.

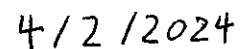
The applicant's approach to meeting the required evaluation measure of substantial alignment to West Virginia Pedagogical Standards is to provide documented evidence of alignment and request that the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning training/coursework and program be recognized as adequately pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C). The application information displays coursework alignment to InTASC standards. The New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning describes ways in which participants are provided with knowledge needed to meet the needs of diverse learners and special education students. The New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning will be fully responsible for meeting all federal reporting requirements (e.g., Title II, Sections 205 through 208 of the Higher Education Act).

Program Application Review:

A committee from the WVDE was assigned by State Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Michele Blatt, to review the application and determine through evaluation if the program is adequate pursuant to W. Va. Code §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C). A quorum of committee members indicated that the application provides sufficient evidence that the program's coursework is substantially aligned to InTASC Standards. Therefore, it is recommended and a motion is requested that the application for the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning to provide a program for initial teacher certification in West Virginia be approved by the WVBE during the April 9, 2024, meeting.



Director, Office of Educator Preparation



Date