
Glossary of Terms

Approval Determination: The type of approval a Sponsoring Organization receives from formal review (Approved with Distinction, Approved, Approved with Conditions, Probationary Approval, or Not Approved). Formerly called Approval Status.

Candidate: A person who is currently enrolled in an Ed Prep Program; *students*.

Commendation: Criteria rating in Formal Review reserved for truly exceptional, innovative, or outstanding practices. Commendations impact an SO's overall approval determination.

Completer: A person who has successfully completed an educator preparation program; *alumnus, graduate*.

Diverse Student Learners: Students from diverse ethnic, racial, gender, socioeconomic, and exceptional groups (e.g., students with special education and/or English Language Learner designations).

Enrollment: The point at which an individual has met all the Sponsoring Organization's requirements in order to be formally admitted into the educator preparation program. Each Sponsoring Organization may define enrollment differently.

Field-Based Experiences: Experiences such as observation of a variety of classrooms, pre-practicum, practicum/practicum equivalent, internship, or apprenticeship that are integral components of any program for the preparation of educators.

Finding: Criteria rating in Formal Review for areas of concern requiring corrective action. Findings impact an SO's overall approval determination.

Input Measures: Sources of evidence used to demonstrate actions and systems Sponsoring Organizations have in place to meet Formal Review criteria. These measures recognize that overall outcomes are influenced by programmatic inputs.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks: The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks comprise the following subject areas: Arts, English Language Arts, Foreign Language, Comprehensive Health, Mathematics, History and Social Science, Science Technology and Engineering, English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes, and Vocational Technical Education.

Public PK-12 classrooms in Massachusetts transitioned to the most recent ELA/Literacy and Mathematics standards (based on the Common Core State Standards adopted by 45 states) during the 2012-2013 school year. These standards are designed to prepare students for college and careers after high school. The 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics documents incorporate the Common Core State Standards and include the additional Massachusetts standards for pre-kindergarten and selected topics in other grades.

NASDTEC Interstate Agreement: The agreement sponsored by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) concerning reciprocal licensing of educational personnel among participating jurisdictions.

Output Measures: Sources of evidence that link criteria with quantifiable data on program results.

Partnership: Deliberate collaboration between Sponsoring Organizations and PK-12 districts/schools to ensure effective preparation that meets the needs of the PK-12 partner. For more information, see [Stakeholders](#) section.

Persistence Rate: The percentage of candidates who are enrolled in a program in relation to the number of program completers. This data will be collected through ELAR and included in the public Profiles.

Professional Suggestions: Professional Suggestions serve as recommendations for continuous improvement. They do not require a mandatory response or action.

Program Approval: State authorization of an educator preparation program or its Sponsoring Organization to endorse program completers prepared in Massachusetts for educator licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Also, the process through which a program or Sponsoring Organization may receive state approval.

Program Supervisor: A member of the SO staff, the Program Supervisor serves as the liaison between the SO and the practicum placement. She/he is responsible for overseeing the student teaching experience, observing and providing feedback to the candidate and coordinating the assessment for program completion.

Reviewer: Person identified by ESE as someone with the knowledge and experience required to evaluate evidence of how programs meet review criteria. Reviewers are chosen based on their qualifications and screened for bias or potential conflicts of interest. Reviewers also receive extensive training and calibration to implement the review process.

Sponsoring Organization: Institution of higher education or alternative preparation organization that provides, or seeks to provide, approved preparation programs.

Status Designation: An assessment of a Sponsoring Organization's performance as required by Title II of the Higher Education Act (high performing, at-risk, or low performing).

Student: PK-12 child.

Supervising Practitioner: A PK-12 educator who oversees a candidate's field-based experience; cooperating teacher, mentor teacher. A Supervising Practitioner shall be supported and evaluated by the Sponsoring Organization, have at least three full years of experience under an appropriate Initial or Professional license, and have received a rating of proficient or higher on his/her most recent summative evaluation.

Triggering Data: Any data that indicate an interim review of a Sponsoring Organization may be warranted. Data submitted annually to ESE by Sponsoring Organizations or collected by ESE from other stakeholders may trigger an interim review. Other triggering data may include: a high rate of staff or faculty turnover; annual checks on candidate files that reveal issues; zero program completers for multiple years; offering of large numbers of programs potentially compromising quality for quantity; and watered down general curriculum attempting to appease all potential candidates (large numbers of waivers).

Waiver Policy: Regulations state (603 CMR 7.03 (1) (b)): Sponsoring Organizations with approved preparation programs have the authority to review prior course work and work experience of their candidates and waive otherwise required course work, including the first half of the practicum or practicum equivalent, when designing programs of study for them. Granting such waivers is the official responsibility of the Sponsoring Organization. Records of candidates for whom coursework or other program requirements have been waived must be available during onsite review. For more information, see [Implementation of Waivers in Approved Programs](#) section.