

## Program Approval

Programs must be approved by ESE in order to endorse candidates for licensure. Candidates may qualify for licensure through successful completion of an approved preparation program leading to the license sought, provided they meet all other licensure requirements. Individuals who complete approved preparation programs may be eligible for licensure reciprocity with other states that are parties to the [NASDTEC Interstate Agreement](#).

According to 603 CMR 7.03 (1)(d):

The regulatory language states: *“A Sponsoring Organization seeking approval for its preparation program(s) shall invite ESE to review them. The Sponsoring Organization shall provide written evidence in accordance with these Guidelines, demonstrating that it satisfies the requirements set forth in 603 CMR 7.03 (1) through (4). ESE shall review the written information for each proposed program along with outcome measures and verify them through an onsite review of the Sponsoring Organization.”*

A Sponsoring Organization *must* receive approval from ESE *before* enrolling candidates into any educator preparation program.

There are three types of program approval reviews: Informal, Formal, and Interim. An overview of each review is outlined in the chart below; specifics are provided in the sections that follow.

	Type of Review		
	Informal Review	Formal Review	Interim Review
<b>Overview</b> (see <a href="#">The Review Process</a> for details)	For SO’s proposing new programs outside of the seven-year cycle or entities seeking to become a Sponsoring Organization	For currently approved SO’s seeking continuing approval at the end of current approval window	For currently approved SO’s within the current approval window
<b>Term of Approval</b>	1 year	Varies by Approval Determination, Typically a 7-year approval	As needed
<b>Form of Review</b>	Offsite document review	Offsite document review <u>and</u> onsite visit	As needed
<b>Licensing Authority</b>	Massachusetts Reciprocity through NASDTEC not guaranteed	Massachusetts and Reciprocity through NASDTEC	ESE determined
<b>Initiated by</b>	Sponsoring Organization	ESE	ESE

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### **ESE's Role in Review**

As Sponsoring Organizations undergo formal review, ESE will provide technical assistance that supports the organization through the review process. The Department will support Sponsoring Organizations by providing clear expectations and requirements for the review process, and will provide templates of required documents and information resources to clarify and explain requirements and options for organizations under review. ESE further supports organizations under review through information sessions, phone calls, and timely responses to emailed questions and concerns. In order to uphold the integrity of the process and ensure consistency and fairness across reviews, ESE does not provide feedback or advice about the content of submissions.