
Instructional Leader Preparation Program Approval

The Background:

As mandated in the Learning Centered Leadership (LCL) Policy, the Tennessee Department of Education is responsible for reviewing Instructional Leader Preparation Programs. Currently, Tennessee's 20 Instructional Leader Preparation Programs operate under conditional approval, a status granted in 2011. Last spring, the department developed a deliberate, streamlined, off-site process to review programs for full approval.

During the summer of 2014, programs submitted evidence to demonstrate alignment with the four key sections of the LCL Policy (Partnership with LEAs, Candidate Selection, Curriculum, and Practicum). To conduct the review, the TDOE identified 15 review team members, composed of TDOE staff, leader preparation program faculty, school district personnel, and individuals from key stakeholder groups, such as the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents and the Tennessee Education Association. Initial reviews were conducted during September and October. Final reports, including overall Action recommendations, were shared with programs in mid-December 2014.

Sixteen programs met expectations and were recommended for full approval in January 2015. Three of the remaining four programs were recommended for full approval in January 2016 after a secondary review process took place. The Instructional Leader Preparation Program at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) met expectations on all but one indicator (Assessment System) during this secondary review. As a result, the program was not recommended for full approval and was required to engage in a revision and review process in the spring and summer of 2016.

Throughout the spring of 2016, MTSU carried out an implementation plan to redesign their assessment system to address the concerns raised by the review team. TDOE and MTSU were in frequent communication throughout this process and MTSU demonstrated making adequate progress throughout the spring and summer months. In August 2016, MTSU formally submitted revisions that addressed the areas of deficiency. These documents were reviewed by a review team comprised of faculty members from other leader preparation programs across the state. The team determined that MTSU's revisions were substantial and that the expectations of the indicator were met. As a result, the Department is recommending Full Approval of MTSU's instructional leader preparation program.

Attached is an action recommendation for the Instructional Leader Preparation Program at Middle Tennessee State University.

Action recommendation:

Full Approval: Middle Tennessee State University

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.