

Senate Bill 78 Strengthening Oregon's Teacher Preparation Program Approval Process



"To close achievement gaps in Oregon, we need teachers who—from day one—better appreciate and understand the student diversity in their classrooms...A greater focus on preparation—in schools and driven by school districts—is an important starting point for strengthening teaching in Oregon."
—Distinguished Educators Council, 2012

High-quality teacher preparation is one of the most significant factors that influences the recruitment and retention of effective teachers. In 2012, Chalkboard Project launched TeachOregon, a collaborative initiative to design and implement innovative approaches to help improve and support Oregon's teacher preparation programs. In that same year, the Distinguished Educators Council called for teacher preparation programs to reflect recommendations for improving teacher education from NCATE's (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) *Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation and Partnerships for Improved Student Learning*. As of July 2013, NCATE joined with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) to create the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)—the new and sole specialized accreditor for educator preparation.

Teacher preparation programs operate through state approval and it is the state's responsibility to ensure that programs in Oregon provide teacher candidates the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to be successful in the classroom. This requires a robust and rigorous program approval process. Senate Bill 78 is a direct result of the ongoing work and lessons learned from TeachOregon and recommendations offered by the Distinguished Educators Council.

Why CAEP accreditation?

- Ensure high standards that are nationally recognized.
- Use evidence-based measures of performance, external reviewers, and a defined turn-around time for information to the program.
- Increase interaction with P-12 educators in accreditation process.
- Align with proposed federal regulations as part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, which is tied to TEACH grant eligibility.

Problem

- Current review process relies on a team of uncompensated university faculty members and educators from within Oregon.
- Consequences and closures of poorly performing teacher preparation programs are rare.
- According to the Oregon Secretary of State's August 2013 audit, half of school district administrator respondents said Oregon's public teaching colleges do not sufficiently prepare their graduates.
- According to a national 2012 McKinsey, 62 percent of new teachers say they graduated from education school unprepared for the classroom.

Solution in SB 78

- Requires national accreditation for teacher preparation program approval by TSPC by July 1, 2022. This is in addition to other standards required by TSPC, including equity measures.
- Creates time-limited fund of \$200,000 to support teacher preparation programs with the accreditation process.

Nationally accredited programs in Oregon*

Portland State University**
University of Portland
Western Oregon University
Lewis & Clark College
George Fox University
Oregon State University
OSU-Cascades
Pacific University

*Oregon currently has 18 teacher preparation programs.

**PSU has begun the CAEP accreditation process.

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Who is Chalkboard Project?

Chalkboard Project is an independent education reform organization dedicated to making Oregon's K-12 public schools among the best in the country. Launched in 2004 and with a goal of transforming our public education system by focusing on educator and leader effectiveness to improve student achievement, Chalkboard Project serves as a nonpartisan advocate for best-practice and evidence-based education reform across the entire educator career pathway. We are funded by a consortium of Oregon's leading philanthropic foundations with a central belief that expert research is essential to identifying policies and practices that improve outcomes for students. The founding foundations are: Meyer Memorial Trust, The Oregon Community Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, JELD-WEN Foundation, and The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation.

Who is the Distinguished Educators Council (DEC)?

In our search for advice on ways to support and strengthen teaching and learning in Oregon's K-12 classrooms, Chalkboard turns to experts in the field: teachers and education leaders themselves. In 2012, Chalkboard commissioned the Distinguished Educators Council. The council—a diverse body of teacher leaders who have been recognized by peers as exceptional educators—provides recommendations for state and local policymakers and educators on important reform efforts across the entire educator career pathway to ensure Oregon is a great place to teach.

What is TeachOregon?

Funded by Chalkboard and the state's Network for Quality Teaching and Learning, TeachOregon pairs universities with their community colleges and school district partners to redesign teacher recruitment, clinical practice, mentoring, and hiring practices. Five project teams representing 13 districts and 11 higher education institutions, which together license 65 percent of the state's teachers, are:

- Recruiting and selecting teacher candidates who bring a high quality and culturally representative mix of Oregonians into the profession.
- Providing a rigorous clinical practice experience that includes a highly effective and trained cooperating teacher.
- Ensuring that new teachers are graduating with the skills they need to be hired, and are placed in schools which need the skills they offer.
- Aligning mentoring and induction support to ensure that new teachers are successful in the transition to their own classrooms and these teachers are retained in the districts in which they are hired.

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