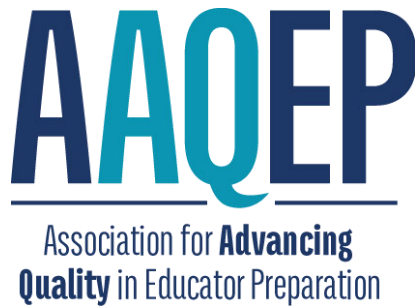




COOPERATION AGREEMENT

**between the
Michigan Department of Education
and
Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) enter into this Agreement to define the roles and responsibilities of each entity when working in collaboration to review and determine accreditation status and compliance with state requirements for an Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) seeking such accreditation. This Agreement is effective on the date signed by MDE.

RECITALS

Whereas, AAQEP nationally accredits EPPs, with the mission of promoting and recognizing quality educator preparation that strengthens the education profession's ability to serve all students, schools, and communities; and

Whereas, MDE supports continuous improvement in educator preparation; and

Whereas, MDE retains full discretion and authority of all educator preparation provider and program approvals in Michigan, irrespective of the outcome of AAQEP accreditation.

Whereas, AAQEP and MDE enter into this agreement establishing the Parties' rights and obligations with regard to site reviews conducted by AAQEP of EPPs approved by MDE to recommend educators for certification in Michigan.

AGREEMENT

In consideration of the foregoing, and of the mutual promises hereinafter set forth, the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. AAQEP Standards and Scope of Quality Assurance Reviews

1.1. Quality assurance reviews conducted by AAQEP within the State of Michigan will be guided by the current version of the AAQEP standards and policies (available at <https://aaqep.org>).

- 1.1.1. AAQEP's process will include an optional proposal stage that occurs two to three years prior to a scheduled site visit to provide feedback.
- 1.1.2. All quality assurance reviews for 7-year accreditation status will include an off-site review, conducted virtually, two months prior to each site visit and an on-site visit, the scope of which is determined by program size and complexity.
- 1.1.3. All quality assurance reviews for 5-year initial accreditation status will include a preliminary virtual meeting with program staff and a virtual site visit, which includes stakeholder meetings and review of data when appropriate.

1.2. The scope of the AAQEP accreditation sought by providers in Michigan must include all programs recognized and/or approved by MDE that require continuous accreditation as specified in [R 390.1151\(3\)](#).

1.3. AAQEP will ensure the provider identifies which aspects of its work are and are not accredited in all public displays that make note of accreditation.

1.4. MDE will appoint at least one representative to attend and participate in all quality assurance reviews and meetings involving a Michigan-approved EPP.

2. Quality Assurance Review Team

2.1. AAQEP will appoint a sufficient number of quality assurance review team members with the required qualifications to each review case to ensure that the review is carried out thoroughly and efficiently.

- 2.1.1. Each AAQEP review team will include at least one educational practitioner (Local Practitioner) from Michigan nominated by the provider hosting the review; that local practitioner will receive training and support from AAQEP and the Quality Review Team lead. The local practitioner provides local and state educational context and participates as a full member of the Quality Review Team.
- 2.1.2. In addition to the AAQEP-appointed members, at least one MDE staff member will participate as a state observer, which is a non-writing member

of the Quality Review Team. MDE state observers will provide contextual support for both the review team and the provider, attend all team meetings including those between the team and the provider leadership, and have access to all visit materials.

2.2. MDE will bear the cost of state observers to attend the quality assurance review site visits.

2.3. AAQEP may allow other observers to participate, but MDE shall bear no additional costs, if any.

2.4. All Quality Review Team members will complete AAQEP preparation and quality requirements as outlined in the *Guide to AAQEP Accreditation*.

2.5. Team member training and related professional learning opportunities will be made available to MDE staff at no cost; travel and lodging expenses are not included. MDE staff are invited to participate in training prior to joining review teams as observers. However, training is not a condition for participation as observers.

2.6. All review team members will abide by AAQEP's conflict of interest and confidentiality policies. MDE and AAQEP will meet regularly to update each other on changes in policy and practice and to discuss findings and concerns from recent reviews, including performance of review team members.

3. Relation of Accreditation to Program Approval

3.1. MDE retains sole authority for the approval of all Michigan educator preparation programs. MDE will grant continuing approval of EPPs determined through national accreditation reviews of disaggregated program data and/or statewide program review processes.

3.2. AAQEP's process requires disaggregation of evidence by licensure, certificate, or endorsement area as well as by program site and/or mode of delivery. This allows for quality judgments to be made regarding each licensure, certificate, or endorsement area program under the scope of accreditation. Quality assurance at the program level provides evidence for how AAQEP standards on candidate and completer performance are being met and facilitates comprehensive judgment of the provider as a whole.

4. Accreditation Decisions

4.1. AAQEP accreditation decisions are made by the AAQEP Accreditation Commission. Accreditation statuses and terms are detailed in AAQEP's *Guide* and policy at <https://aaqep.org>.

4.1.1. Accreditation status is granted for a term of seven years, contingent upon the completion of annual reports and any other required reports.

4.1.2. Initial accreditation status is granted for a term of five years, contingent upon the completion of annual reports and any other required reports.

5. Communication and Logistics of Collaboration

5.1. AAQEP will provide timely MDE access to information related to all accreditation activities and materials, including but not limited to schedules of meetings both off site and on site and final versions of any reports generated through the accreditation process.

5.2. AAQEP will electronically share accreditation decisions once available, including the reports on which decisions are based and the Accreditation Commission's rationale for each decision, with MDE. AAQEP will electronically send copies of all reports or official letters generated by the review team and the Accreditation Commission to MDE.

5.3. AAQEP will invite MDE to observe all Accreditation Commission meetings at which a Michigan provider's case will be considered, at no cost to MDE.

5.4. MDE and AAQEP agree to share information regarding any changes to provider state approval and national accreditation status within five business days.

5.5. AAQEP and MDE agree to share any law, policy, or procedural changes that impact provider accreditation in a timely manner.

6. AAQEP Capacity Review and Formative Support Options

6.1. In cooperation with and at the discretion of MDE, AAQEP will make available to Michigan providers the following additional services:

- **AAQEP Program Performance Review.** Program performance review will be based on the disaggregated evidence presented in the standard AAQEP Quality Assurance Report, supplemented by additional analysis by programs that are appended to the report. The review will address program-specific standard alignment and evidence regarding content knowledge, pedagogical

knowledge, and instructional performance, and include analysis of program-specific data and planning for improvement based on that data. MDE retains sole program approval authority.

- **System Improvement Support.** AAQEP will facilitate program and provider improvement for entities that have identified specific shortcomings in their work, including cases where shortcomings have been identified through external evaluations such as state or accreditation reviews. AAQEP will enter into an agreement with the provider and MDE to establish a timeline, priorities, and outcomes for such reviews.

7. Membership Benefits

7.1. AAQEP represents and warrants that it strives to ensure the preparation of excellent and effective teachers and other professional educators. In support of this, MDE agrees to join AAQEP as a state member at no cost.

7.2. AAQEP will provide the following supportive services to MDE staff:

- AAQEP Annual Events: AAQEP will provide one MDE staff with a no-cost registration to its annual Quality Assurance Symposium and to the AAQEP Institute and provide any additional MDE staff registration at the reduced member rate. (AAQEP is not responsible for MDE staff travel costs.)
- MDE staff will have their registration fees waived for AAQEP in-person workshops within Michigan and may participate at no cost in online professional learning activities, including webinars and reviewer training.

8. Agreement Term and Amendments

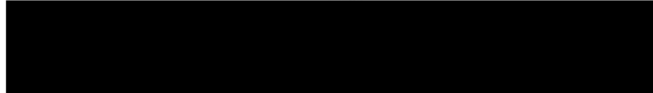
8.1. AAQEP and MDE enter into this Agreement for the period beginning with the date of the signatures below and ending on December 31, 2029.

8.2. The Parties will review this Agreement at least annually and, as necessary, propose any amendment deemed appropriate and which may be adopted upon the written agreement of the Parties.

8.3. Notwithstanding the annual review described above, this Agreement may be modified by consent of the Parties at any point. No amendment to this Agreement will be effective and binding upon the Parties unless it expressly makes reference to this Agreement, is in writing, and is signed by duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

8.4. This Agreement may be terminated by either Party on 60 days' written notice provided to the other Party's designated primary contact, including via electronic mail.

Signatures:



Mark LaCelle-Peterson,
President and CEO, AAQEP

July 23, 2025

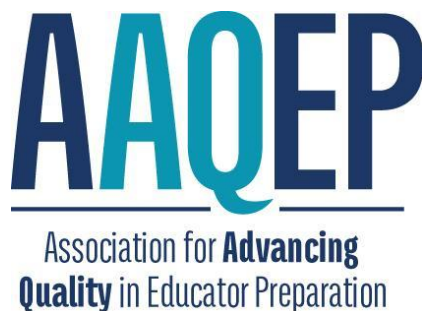
Date



Kelli Brozanski, Director,
Office of Educator Excellence, MDE

07/24/2025

Date



ADDENDUM

MDE-AAQEP COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This Addendum (the “Addendum”) supplements and clarifies Sections 2 and 5 of the MDE-AAQEP Cooperation Agreement between the Michigan Department of Education and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation. These changes provide clarification on the role the state has as a participant in the review process. All changes are effective from the date of the latest signature below.

In addition to the current language of Section 2 of the Original Agreement, this Addendum clarifies the role of the MDE consultant(s) in site visit planning, execution, and ongoing communication.

2.1.2. In addition to AAQEP-appointed members, one or more MDE staff members serve as a state participant on each Quality Review Team and are included in all team communications and the scheduling of all team meetings. In addition to providing contextual support for the review team, the state participant takes part in the review team’s meetings throughout the quality assurance review which include:

- the review team welcome meeting;
- the pre-visit team meeting;
- the pre-visit meeting with the provider;
- team meetings during the site visit; and
- stakeholder interviews during the site visit.

However, the state participant does **not** have any responsibility in writing the team’s previsit and quality assurance reports.

In addition, the state participant will be included in communications and meetings related to site visit planning and scheduling. This includes communications and meetings among the provider, the Team Lead, and AAQEP Staff members who serve as Site Visit Liaisons to the team and the provider.

2.5 Team member training and related professional learning opportunities will be made available to MDE staff at no cost. AAQEP is not responsible for the travel and lodging expenses. Prior to serving on a team as a state participant, the MDE representative must successfully complete the AAQEP training required of review team members. If MDE staff

are joining teams solely as observers, they are invited to participate in training prior to the visit but training is not a condition for participation as observers.

In addition to the current specification of the Communication and Logistics of Collaboration (Section 5), this agreement reaffirms AAQEP's commitment to partner with MDE during the accreditation process, including during the Proposal process.

- 5.1 As part of the review team, AAQEP will provide MDE full access to all site visit materials, including information in AAQEP's accreditation management platform.
- 5.6 While submission of an Accreditation Proposal is an optional step in the quality review process for Michigan EPPs seeking AAQEP accreditation, consistent with Section 1.1.1 of the Original Agreement, AAQEP will remind Michigan providers that submit proposals to:
- Share their accreditation proposal with MDE;
 - Invite their MDE consultant to the Context Meeting that the provider holds with their peer reviewers; and
 - Invite their MDE consultant to the (optional) Feedback Exchange meeting with their peer reviewers should they decide to host this meeting.

Providers will also be reminded to send the joint review to their MDE consultant.

All other terms and conditions under the Original Agreement remain unchanged and in effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Addendum to the Original Agreement as of the date and year set forth below.

For AAQEP



Mark LaCelle-Peterson
CEO and President, AAQEP

For MDE



Kelli Brozanski
Director, Office of Educator
Excellence

June 15, 2026