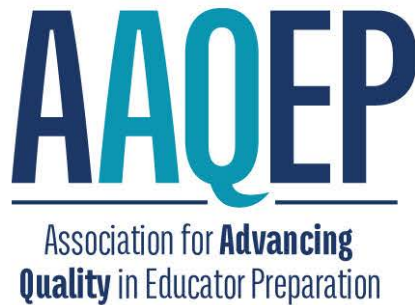




COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between the
Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation
and
Office of Educational Quality and Accountability

This agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), 173 Milkweed Dr. Lake Frederick, VA 22630, and the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA), 123 Robert S. Kerr Avenue, 5th Floor, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, to support quality assurance, continuous improvement, and innovation in educator preparation by OEQA-approved, non-institution of higher education (non-IHE) alternative educator preparation providers seeking or maintaining AAQEP accreditation in the State of Oklahoma. For purposes of this agreement, "Provider" means a non-IHE alternative educator preparation provider approved by OEQA.

This agreement shall take effect beginning on the date of the last signature at the end of this document. It may be amended only by a written instrument signed by authorized representatives of AAQEP and OEQA. The parties will confer in good faith to update this agreement if either party's standards or processes materially change.

This agreement will remain in effect for five years from the Effective Date and will automatically renew for successive one-year terms unless either party provides 60 days' written notice of nonrenewal. Either party may terminate for convenience upon 90 days' written notice.

AAQEP affirms OEQA's efforts to ensure quality preparation of educators to meet the needs of Oklahoma's children, families, schools, and communities and commits to ensuring quality educator preparation by AAQEP-member Providers approved by OEQA. By entering this agreement, OEQA affirms AAQEP's mission of promoting and recognizing quality educator preparation that strengthens the education profession's ability to serve all students, schools, and communities.

1. Standards Used in Quality Assurance Reviews

Quality assurance reviews conducted by AAQEP in Oklahoma will be guided by the current version of the AAQEP standards (available at <https://aaqep.org>) and in keeping with AAQEP policy regarding the application of those standards. In conducting reviews of programs approved

by OEQA, AAQEP will require that all relevant Oklahoma standards and state rules/regulations be addressed.

Providers approved by OEQA must meet all relevant Oklahoma standards set forth in Oklahoma law, including, but not limited to, Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and Title 218 of the Oklahoma Administrative Code (hereinafter, "Oklahoma Law").

In addition, Providers are welcome to orient their quality assurance review to other relevant professional standards (for example, those from professional associations such as the International Society for Technology in Education, American School Counselor Association, the International Literacy Association, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, etc.).

2. Scope of Quality Assurance Reviews

The scope of AAQEP accreditation sought by Providers in Oklahoma must include all programs registered with or recognized by the state education authority that require continuous national accreditation as specified in Oklahoma Law, including, but not limited to, 70 O.S.Supp.2026, § 6-133. A Provider may, at its discretion, include additional programs of study that lead to a degree or certificate designed for those intending to work as, or already working as, educational professionals. For such programs of study, where no state standards are specified, the Provider shall identify any standards in addition to the AAQEP standards to which the programs are aligned.

The scope of the AAQEP accreditation sought by Providers in Oklahoma will be determined by the Provider in consultation with OEQA and AAQEP. The Provider will clearly identify which aspects of its work are and are not accredited in all public displays that make note of accreditation.

3. Quality Assurance Review Process

All quality assurance reviews conducted by AAQEP will be guided by AAQEP's policies and procedures as specified in the *Guide to AAQEP Accreditation*, available at <https://aaqep.org>.

Under AAQEP's policies, Providers may seek either a seven-year renewable term of accreditation or, if they are new to the AAQEP system, may choose to seek a five-year non-renewable term of accreditation.

- All quality assurance reviews for 7-year accreditation status include a series of virtual previsit meetings of the review team, one of which includes the Provider, an on-site visit, and a virtual decision meeting, all of which OEQA staff are welcome to attend.
- All quality assurance reviews for 5-year non-renewable accreditation status include a series of virtual previsit meetings of the review team, one of which includes the Provider, a virtual site visit which includes stakeholder meetings and review of evidence, and a virtual decision meeting; OEQA staff are welcome to attend these meetings. The 5-year accreditation status is nonrenewable.

AAQEP's process also includes an optional accreditation proposal review process in which Providers specify their assessment system and plans for ensuring data quality. It is recommended that Providers utilize this optional process two to three years prior to a scheduled site visit. AAQEP, however, will work with Providers with shorter timelines. Note: An AAQEP Proposal does not lead to an accreditation status.

4. Review Team Composition

AAQEP will appoint a sufficient number of trained Quality Review Team members with appropriate qualifications to each review case to ensure that the review is carried out thoroughly and efficiently. Each AAQEP review team will include one local practitioner from Oklahoma nominated by the Provider hosting the review; that local practitioner will receive training and support from AAQEP. The local practitioner will support the review team's understanding of and respect for the local and state educational context and participate as a full member of the Quality Review Team.

In addition to the AAQEP-appointed reviewers, one or more OEQA staff members may participate as observers. The Provider hosting the review and OEQA will agree in writing on any costs associated with hosting OEQA observers before the review.

Other observers, including those seeking a better understanding of the AAQEP process, may participate as agreed to by AAQEP and the host Provider. The additional cost, if any, will be paid by the observers.

5. Reviewer Preparation and Qualifications

All review team members will meet AAQEP requirements for qualifications and preparation. Reviewer training and professional learning opportunities will be made available to OEQA staff at no cost (though AAQEP will not cover travel and lodging expenses); OEQA observers are invited to participate in training prior to joining review teams as observers. Training is not a condition for participation as OEQA observers.

6. Relation of Accreditation to Program Approval

All decisions for state approval of education preparation programs for each content or specialty area are within the sole authority of the OEQA. State decisions to approve or not approve Provider programs are made independent of AAQEP determinations regarding accreditation of the Provider. AAQEP acknowledges that the rules and standards that govern state approval of a Provider and its programs in Oklahoma are subject to change at any time by the OEQA.

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.

7. Accreditation Decisions

AAQEP accreditation decisions are made by the AAQEP Accreditation Commission in meetings conducted via video conference. Accreditation statuses and terms are detailed in AAQEP's *Guide* and policy documents, available at <https://aaqep.org>. Accreditation is granted for a specified term (seven-year renewable, five-year nonrenewable, or two-year probationary) contingent upon maintaining AAQEP membership and submitting all required annual and other required reports. Observers from OEQA are welcome to attend meetings of the Accreditation Commission at which cases of Oklahoma Providers are considered. Accreditation decisions, including the reports on which decisions are based and the Accreditation Commission's rationale for each decision, will be shared with the OEQA.

8. Communication and Logistics of Collaboration

Providers seeking AAQEP accreditation will ensure that OEQA is apprised of the schedule of accreditation activities, including scheduled site visit dates. AAQEP will give access to OEQA to self-study reports submitted through the accreditation management platform. AAQEP will inform OEQA of the Accreditation Commission meeting(s) at which a Provider's case will be considered.

AAQEP will send copies of all reports or official letters generated by the review team and the Accreditation Commission to the OEQA contact person. The OEQA will keep AAQEP updated when its primary contact person has changed.

In addition, OEQA and AAQEP agree to share information with each other regarding any changes to Oklahoma Providers' state approval and national accreditation status.

9. Confidentiality and Data Handling

Each party will use reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect any shared confidential or personally identifiable information and will use and disclose it solely for purposes of implementing this agreement and applicable oversight functions.

10. AAQEP Capacity Review and Formative Support Options

In cooperation with and at the discretion of OEQA, AAQEP will make available to Oklahoma Providers the following additional services:

- Support for program performance review. AAQEP provides a means for accomplishing both provider accreditation and program review simultaneously based on the preparation of a single report. This assures that program-level review is based on the most current available evidence and that the provider and program-level evaluation and planning are integrated. Program performance review is based on the disaggregated evidence

presented in the standard AAQEP Quality Assurance Report, supplemented by additional analysis by programs that is appended to the report.

- Support for specified improvement: AAQEP facilitates 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 OEQA to establish a timeline, priorities, and outcomes for such reviews.

11. Membership

AAQEP views cooperation among accreditors, Providers, and SEAs as essential to effective quality assurance in educator preparation. AAQEP enters into this agreement with the intent of supporting both OEQA and Providers authorized by it in ensuring the preparation of excellent and effective teachers and other professional educators. OEQA agrees to join AAQEP as a state member at no cost in support of these goals. In addition to granting OEQA staff access to member resources and benefits, AAQEP will provide the following supportive services:

- OEQA staff may register at no cost to participate in any in-person seminars, workshops, or national events that AAQEP holds within Oklahoma (AAQEP does not cover travel expenses or lodging).
- One OEQA staff may register at no cost for the annual Quality Assurance Symposium and/or AAQEP Institute, and additional OEQA staff may register at the reduced member rate (AAQEP does not cover travel expenses or lodging).
- OEQA staff may participate in virtual AAQEP professional learning events and reviewer training at no cost.

Signatures:



10/5/26

Karen Lowenstein, President and CEO, AAQEP

Date



Oct 6, 2026

Michelle Seybolt, Executive Director, OEQA

Date