

Montana Board of Public Education

Executive Summary

Date: March 18, 2024

Presentation	Presentation on the Request for Initial Approval for the Alternative Program- American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (American Board).
Presenter	Julie Murgel and Crystal Andrews
Position Title	Chief Program Officer and Accreditation and Licensure Director at the Office of Public Instruction
Overview	As aligned with ARM 10.58.802; the Superintendent is requesting approval of the American Board, an alternative certification program.
Requested Decision(s)	Action Item
Related Issue(s)	<p>The American Board's request addresses the requirements listed in SB373, the statute for an alternative teacher certification and endorsement program.</p> <p>ARM 10.57.102(5)(c) "Approved preparation program" means: An educator preparation program approved by a state board of education or state education agency that leads to licensure in the state of preparation.</p>
Recommendation(s)	Recommend initial approval to ABCTE until January 2026 at which time ABCTE will have to provide evidence of five items outlined in ARM 10.58.802(2) to be considered for full approval.



APPROVAL OF NEW CURRICULAR PROGRAMS
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

American Board

Administrative Rules of Montana 10.58.802

Step 1: Initial Approval	Date Submitted
Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) curriculum process and procedures.	n/a
Institutional body implements policy to add new programs.	n/a
Institutional governing body, i.e., board of directors, institutional leadership, or Board of Regents, as applicable, approves new program application.	n/a
Verification of regional accreditation.	n/a

Step 2: Application Process	Date Submitted
EPP completes the Institutional Self-Study Report (ISSR) to address Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM)10.58.802 Approval of New Curricular Programs.	October 2, 2023
EPP completes sections of the ISSR unit standards addressing how the new curricular program is aligned with ARM 10.58.311 – 315	October 2, 2023
EPP completes sections of the ISSR: ARM 10.58.501 Teaching Standards for endorsement subject areas; and specific sections of ARM related to the new program (i.e., ARM 10.58.523 Social Studies; ARM 10.58.518 Mathematics).	October 2, 2023
EPP provides support material and resources as needed to respond to the Specific ISSR Sections – use electronic links as applicable, e.g., online Web links containing additional resources and support material, catalogs, programs of studies, assessment system information, surveys of need.	October 2, 2023

Step 3: Application Submission	Date Submitted
EPP submits completed ISSR electronically to the OPI.	October 27, 2023

Step 4: Office Audit/Review	Date Submitted
OPI conducts the audit/review of the application materials.	November 2023
OPI provides an electronic report to EPP with comments and specific requests for additional documentation.	November 2023
EPP submits a follow-up report to OPI, as necessary.	November 2023
The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall recommend initial approval status to the BPE based upon the review of documentation.	November 16-17, 2023: BPE Information Item January 18-19, 2024: BPE Action Item Postponed March 18, 2024: BPE Action

Step 5: EPP Audit/Review	Date Submitted
If the EPP is scheduled for a regular review, the new program is included in the regular review.	n/a
If the EPP is not scheduled for a regular review within the next two years, the OPI will conduct a review to verify the ISSR of the new curricular program meets the PEPP Standards.	January 2026
OPI facilitates the review to verify the ISSR meets the PEPP Standards of the new program.	January 2026
Reviews follow the approved state protocol based on the PEPP Standards.	January 2026

Step 6: Final Approval Process	Date Submitted
Review team submits the state exist report to the state superintendent.	
State Superintendent of Public Instruction makes recommendation to approve/disapprove the proposed new curricular program to the BPE based upon the site team report.	
BPE takes final action on the Superintendent's recommendation.	



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS: INITIAL APPROVAL PROCESS

Aligned to ARM [10.58.802](#) APPROVAL OF NEW CURRICULAR PROGRAM

To seek initial approval for a new curricular program, the following steps are required:

1. The provider may request the approval of a new curricular program by describing the purpose, need, and objectives of the program and the impact on P-12 education.
2. The provider submits evidence of the program aligned with the BPE Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) ARM 10.58.
3. The OPI facilitates a review of the submitted documentation and evidence.
4. The BPE-approved PEPPS will be used to guide the review process. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall recommend initial approval status to the BPE based upon the review of documentation.
5. If the recommendation from this meeting is to approve, the new provider is recognized as initially approved for two years until the provider demonstrates compliance with 10.58.802(2):

The provider:

- (a) ensures that the program of study is based on current research, proven practice, and emerging trends in this field of P-12 school curriculum;
- (b) works cooperatively with accredited school districts, education organizations, agencies, and P-20 stakeholders to design the program;
- (c) implements, assesses, and evaluates the program's impact on the identified P-12 needs;
- (d) submits regular and systematic reports of the program's impact on P-12 education to the state superintendent and the Board of Public Education; and
- (e) updates and maintains program information on its Web page.