

BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

WALSH UNIVERSITY

Early Childhood 4/5 Generalist Endorsement

This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for degree approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for a generalist (grade 4 and 5) endorsement added to a degree leading to licensure in early childhood education. There were no concerns identified in the review. Approval is recommended for a three-year period of time.

Background: Ohio has more teachers licensed in early childhood education than any other licensure area. In October 2008, the State Board of Education adopted a change to Administrative Code Rule 3301-24-05 to enable early childhood teachers (Pre-k through Grade 3) to broaden the scope of their license to include grades 4 and 5. This option will provide school districts greater staffing flexibility in matching teachers with school building configurations (i.e. K-6 buildings and middle schools). The additional option will also improve teachers' mobility within Ohio and to other states and give students currently in academic programs the necessary preparation for additional job opportunities upon graduation.

The Early Child Generalist Endorsement comprises a minimum of 9 semester hours (12 -15 quarter hours) designed to provide preparation for meeting the pedagogical and content needs of students in grades 4 and 5. The program must clearly provide preparation beyond that required for the Pre-K to Grade 3 licensure area. Students must also pass the Praxis II Elementary Education test #0014 prior to submitting an application to add the endorsement to the teaching license.

In July 2009, Governor Strickland signed Amended Substitute House Bill 1 into law giving the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents authority for the approval of all education preparation programs. The State Board of Education retained the responsibility for determining the appropriate licenses and endorsements to meet the needs of school systems. All institutions of higher education requesting new or revised academic programs leading to licensure or endorsement designations are required to submit materials to the Ohio Board of Regents for the Chancellor's approval.

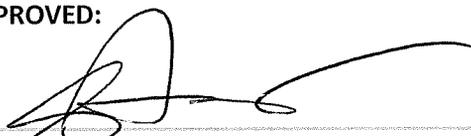
Request: Walsh University requests approval for an Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement for Grades 4 and 5. Walsh University, a private non-profit institution located in Akron, Ohio, offers the Bachelor of Science in Education with programs leading to state licensure in both early childhood education and middle childhood education. Walsh University is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) until 2013 for programs at both the initial and advanced levels of preparation. Walsh University and its education programs are currently authorized by the

Chancellor until December 31, 2011, to coincide with its next review by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC).

Curriculum: Walsh University has designed a nine semester hour program comprising courses designed to address the content and pedagogical needs for teaching grades 4 and 5 that are aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards in social studies, mathematics, and science and include child/adolescent development. The University has developed new courses specifically for the endorsement and demonstrated, through the program proposal, how the courses meet the licensure requirements.

Recommendation: This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for degree approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for a generalist (grade 4 and 5) endorsement added to a degree leading to licensure in early childhood education. There were no concerns identified in the review. Approval is recommended for a three-year period of time.

End of Comment Period: October 5, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED:  Erie D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	 Date
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