

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Middle Childhood Endorsement, Grades 4-6

#### RECOMMENDATION

This continuing program meets the Chancellor's requirements for academic degree programs and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for a Middle Childhood Endorsement (grades 4-6). There were no major concerns identified in the review; areas for improvement were noted. Continued approval is recommended for three years, until the next scheduled review in 2013. In addition, it should be noted that the program is subject to periodic review by the Chancellor to ensure that the standards for Ohio licensure continue to be met.

**Profile:** Kent State University was founded as a public teacher-training institution in 1910 and now serves more than 18,000 undergraduate students and nearly 5000 graduate students through an array of associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees. Kent State University is located in northeastern Ohio.

**Accreditation/Authorization:** The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC) regionally accredits the institution. Kent State University is HLC accredited until its next scheduled review in 2015. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredits Kent State University's educator preparation programs at the initial and advanced level until 2015.

**Request:** Kent State University (KSU) requests continued approval for the Middle Childhood Generalist Endorsement (grades 4-6).

**Background:** Kent State University is currently approved by the State Department of Education to provide teacher preparation programs leading to licensure in the following areas: early childhood education, middle childhood education, adolescent and young adult education (major subject areas), intervention specialist (mild/moderate and deaf), library/media education, multi-age areas (e.g. art, health, foreign language, physical education) and career-technical teacher education. KSU also offers programs leading to licensure for educational personnel (principal, school counselor, school psychologist, superintendent, educational administrative specialist in various areas, audiologist, speech-language pathologist) and several endorsements. Kent State University has both undergraduate and graduate degrees leading to initial licensure. KSU is submitting its request to ensure alignment of the current program with national standards and Ohio standards and requirements.

The Middle Childhood Generalist Endorsement is valid for teaching all core academic content areas in grades four, five, and six; may be added to a middle childhood license with two concentration areas upon evidence of completion of an additional six semester hours of study in each of the content areas to be added, aligned with the state academic content standards; evidence of preparation in pedagogy in each of the additional content areas; and successful completion of the prescribed examination.

Kent State University's program is aligned with these standards. Kent State University's program builds on the knowledge and skills of the middle childhood licensure program and provides the student an opportunity to add additional content areas for grades 4-6.

**Recommendation to the Chancellor:** This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education's minimum standards for a program leading to the Middle Childhood Endorsement (grades 4-6). There were no major concerns identified in the review; areas for improvement were noted. Continued approval is recommended for three years, until the next scheduled review in 2013. In addition, it should be noted that the program is subject to periodic review by the Chancellor to ensure that the standards for Ohio licensure continue to be met.