BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
PRE-KINDERGARTEN SPECIAL NEEDS ENDORSEMENT (Ages 3-5)

This endorsement meets the Chancellor’s requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education’s minimum standards for a Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Endorsement (Ages 3-5). There were no major concerns identified in the review. Approval is recommended for a three-year period of time.

Request: The University of Toledo (UT) requests approval for the Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Endorsement (Ages 3-5). The University of Toledo is a public, non-profit university with an undergraduate enrollment of more than 18,000 students and a graduate enrollment of approximately 5,000 students. The institution is located in Toledo, Ohio.

The University of Toledo offers a number of endorsement programs at the graduate level, including the Ohio Reading Endorsement, the Ohio Transition to Work Endorsement, the Ohio Pre-Kindergarten Endorsement, and the Ohio Gifted Endorsement. The Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Endorsement is a graduate level endorsement and may be taken in conjunction with a masters degree program or an education specialist degree in early childhood or special education. All courses are offered online through distance learning technologies. Candidates can complete the culminating internship in their geographic location.

Accreditation: The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredits the University of Toledo’s educator preparation programs at the initial and advanced level. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC) regionally accredits the institution. UT is HLC accredited until its next scheduled review in 2012.

Background: The Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Endorsement is issued to an individual who holds a prekindergarten certificate, a special certificate for the education of the handicapped, or early childhood or intervention specialist license. The University of Toledo program requires 21 semester hours of graduate study. The program is consistent with Ohio teacher education standards, the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards, standards of the Council for Exceptional Children and National Association for the Education of Young Children. The curriculum focuses on knowledge and skills related to (a) child growth and development, (b) child-focused intervention strategies, (c) the development, implementation and evaluation of effective learning environments, (d) formal and informal assessment strategies for young children with disabilities, (e) partnerships with family and professionals in supporting young children with disabilities, and (f) recognizing the importance of continual professional growth and development.

Recommendation: This program meets the Chancellor’s requirements for program approval and the State Board of Education’s minimum standards for a Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Endorsement (ages 3-5). There were no concerns identified in the review and continued approval is recommended for a three-year period.