

BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

WALSH UNIVERSITY

Early Childhood 4/5 Generalist Endorsement

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

Request: Walsh University requests approval for an Early Childhood 4/5 Generalist Endorsement. Walsh University, a private non-profit institution located in Akron, Ohio, offers the Bachelor of Science in Education with programs leading to 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. The early childhood program is nationally recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The institution and its education programs are currently authorized by the Chancellor until December 31, 2011, to coincide with Walsh University's next review by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC).

Background: 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 change was designed to 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. In addition, school districts will have more flexibility in matching teachers with school building configurations (i.e. K-6 buildings and middle schools).

Curriculum: Walsh University has designed a nine semester hour program developed to address the content and pedagogical needs for teaching grades 4 and 5. The program is aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards in social studies, mathematics, and science and includes preparation in 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. The endorsement program provides preparation beyond that required for the Pre-K to Grade 3 licensure area. Students will be required to pass the Praxis II Elementary Education test #0014.

Recommendation: This program meets the Chancellor's requirements for program 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 and approval is recommended for a three-year period.