January 4, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Educator Preparation Information Due by October 1, 2016

This memorandum addresses several concerns expressed recently with regard to the Alabama State Board of Education’s (ALSBE) adoption of the Educator Preparation Chapter of the Alabama Administrative Code. Most of the changes reflected in that document are applicable to individuals admitted to an educator preparation program on or after July 1, 2016.

1. For most individuals whose applications for certification are received in the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) on or after July 1, 2016, ALSBE standards do not require a comprehensive examination. The exceptions are areas for which there is no Praxis II content knowledge test. This change in ALSBE requirements does not preclude an institution’s decision to require a comprehensive examination as a prerequisite for program and or degree completion.

2. Analysis forms have been revised to reflect the 2015 rules. The new analysis forms are posted via the ALSDE Web site. Go to Education Professionals, Office of Teaching and Leading, Educator Preparation, and then Program Reviews. Please note that a few of the rules are highlighted to indicate that evidence of how the requirement will be met is due no later than October 1, 2016. If you cannot find the new analysis forms, please contact Dr. Lemanski Walker via e-mail (lwalker@alsde.edu).

3. Some of the definitions provided in the 2015 rules have been revised. In Rule 290-3-3-.01, you may wish to review Definitions 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 14, 19, 22, 42, 43, and 52.

4. A new checklist must be submitted for all Alternative Class A, Class A, and Class AA programs by October 1, 2016. Although you may propose other changes, you must indicate how your institution will meet the diversity course requirement. New checklist forms will be posted soon via the site indicated in Item 2 above. We appreciate the information submitted by many institutions to date concerning courses proposed to meet the diversity requirement. In the near future, my staff members will post a list of acceptable courses submitted to date. That information may be helpful to those of you who are working with your faculty to create new courses.
5. We encourage all institutions to submit at least one program for review under our new Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP) process by June 1, 2016. Beginning with information submitted to meet the June 1, 2016, due date, all new programs leading to initial certification and programs submitted in preparation for a comprehensive review must be submitted via the CIEP process. The CIEP and other review documents are posted via the Educator Preparation Section of the ALSDE Web site. Questions about the CIEP process should be directed to Dr. Anna T. Kozlowski via e-mail (akozlowski@alsde.edu).

Let me conclude by commending you for the outstanding performance demonstrated by almost all of your prospective teachers who are helping to pilot edTPA. If you have questions about information provided in the memorandum, please contact Dr. Jayne A. Meyer via e-mail (jmeyer@alsde.edu).

TRB?JAM/SG

cc: Certification Officers
Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris
Dr. Jayne A. Meyer
Dr. Anna T. Kozlowski
Dr. Lemanski Walker