

# Guidelines for Educator Preparation Program Approval

## Addendum: Program Approval Criteria for Endorsement Programs

The endorsement program expectations described below are applicable to all endorsement programs except Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) programs.

Endorsement programs have specific [guidelines](#) that describe program requirements and expected content knowledge for each endorsement area. These programs are narrowly focused on an area of knowledge and specific skills a candidate may demonstrate, in addition to those required for their Initial or Professional educator license. Endorsements issued by DESE do not constitute educator licenses pursuant to [603 CMR 7.04\(1\)](#).

Endorsement programs may only be offered through approved sponsoring organizations. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE; the Department) reviews endorsement programs through a written submission. When endorsement program reviews occur as part of a sponsoring organization's Formal Review, survey data from program stakeholders will be considered as an additional source of evidence in the review.

In addition to meeting the requirements described in the [endorsement program guidelines](#), each endorsement program is expected to meet the following Instruction domain criteria:

### The Instruction Domain

*The sponsoring organization provides effective instruction to all candidates and ensures that all completers have the requisite content knowledge and evidence-based pedagogical skills, including curriculum literacy and anti-racist and culturally and linguistically sustaining practices, for the endorsement role.*

### Endorsement Programs

INS 1: The sponsoring organization regularly examines and updates the program(s) of study to ensure content and practices throughout the program(s) that:

- Represent diverse identities, experiences, and perspectives; and
- Align with current evidence-based practices, including anti-racist and culturally and linguistically sustaining practices.

INS 2: The program(s) of study ensures all candidates develop the content knowledge required for the endorsement area (as described in the guidelines for the relevant endorsement area).

INS 3: *Not applicable for endorsement programs*

INS 4: *Not applicable for endorsement programs*

INS 5: The program(s) of study is intentionally designed such that sequencing and connections between courses build candidates' readiness for the endorsement area.

INS 6: *Not applicable for endorsement programs*