



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeff Wulfson
Acting Commissioner

July 19, 2017

Dr. Robert Johnson
Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

Dear Chancellor Johnson:

Under the authority of the certification law (M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38G), the Commissioner "may approve programs devoted to the preparation of teachers and other education personnel." In support of this, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth underwent a formal review during the 2016-2017 academic year in accordance with the regulations outlined in 603 CMR 7.00 and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (ESE) Guidelines for Program Approval.

In coordination with the leadership and staff at your organization, ESE was able to conduct a robust performance evaluation that included a document review, an assessment of available outcome data, and an onsite visit during which we interviewed several stakeholder groups including recent program completers, current candidates, and your PK-12 partners.

Based on the evidence and judgments outlined within the enclosed Formal Review Report, I have determined that University of Massachusetts Dartmouth is granted **probationary approval**. A Sponsoring Organization or program that is granted probationary approval has insufficiently met state standards. Probationary approval signals that there are significant areas that must be addressed and candidate efficacy and/or experience in the program is not consistently assured to be high quality. Findings indicate areas of concern that impact candidates.

Conditions are outlined in greater detail in the Formal Review Report, specifically *Appendix D: Updated Approval Status and Findings Requiring Action*. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education considers several factors when determining the required actions, including the context of the review and the significance of the finding on overall program quality. Probationary approval will be removed once sufficient evidence of a criteria being met is provided. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will work with your Sponsoring Organization as you seek to move towards full approval.

Given the status of probationary approval, your organization is authorized to endorse candidates for licensure through August 31, 2020 with an anticipated review in the 2019-2020 academic

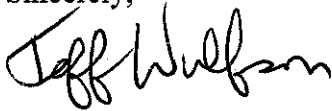
year.

In the event that your Sponsoring Organization ceases to meet the requirements set forth in 603 CMR 7.03 (2) through (4) or ESE finds insufficient evidence of your ability to continue to meet standards at either the program or organization level, ESE may conduct an interim review on an as-needed basis at any interval during the seven-year review cycle.

During your period of approval, candidates must be endorsed electronically through ESE's Early ID system by the individual you have identified as responsible for completing an audit of each candidate's successful completion of all approved program requirements prior to endorsement. Transcripts of University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's candidates for licensure must include the following endorsement statement:

(This candidate) has completed a Massachusetts State approved program for licensure in (indicate field, level and type, e.g., Mathematics, 5-8, Initial) and is endorsed for licensure in this field under terms pursuant to the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement.

Sincerely,



Jeff Wulfson

Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

C: Jeannette Riley, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Traci Almeida, Licensure Officer
Nancy Labrie, ESE State Specialist for Educator Preparation
Marty Meehan, President, University of Massachusetts System

Enclosure