



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

March 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Distance Education Accreditation Commission (DEAC)

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) continues to look for ways to support local education agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHEs) during this critical teacher shortage. We are hopeful that this change will also assist in filling needed positions.

Historically the ALSDE has placed great emphasis on ensuring the degrees and credits accepted for various purposes related to Educator Preparation and Certification met regional accreditation standards. The regional accreditation agencies currently recognized by the ALSDE are:

1. Middle States Commission on Higher Education
2. New England Commission of Higher Education
3. Western Association of Schools and Colleges
4. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
6. Higher Learning Commission (previously the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools)

Based on updated guidance from the United States Department of Education, the ALSDE will now also recognize degrees and credits earned if the institution holds accreditation through the DEAC.

As with acceptance of all other degrees and credits earned, the institution must have been accredited by DEAC at the time of degree conferral or at the time credit was earned.

This change was effective on March 16, 2022; however, it will take staff time to update all documents to reflect this change. If you have questions pertaining to this change, please contact the specialist assigned to your LEA or IHE.

EGM/SH

cc: Deans of Colleges of Education
Mrs. Angela Martin
Mr. Chuck Marcum
Dr. Anna T. Kozlowski

FY22-2037

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