

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

CODE:	<u>EP-01</u>
COMMITTEE:	<u>Education Professions</u>
DATE:	<u>August 4, 2026</u>

SUBJECT/TITLE

National Accreditation Decision: University of South Carolina–Upstate (USC–Upstate)

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

State Board of Education Regulation 43-90 gives the State Board the authority to determine accreditation decisions of educator preparation providers (EPPs) in South Carolina.

CRITICAL FACTS

State Board Regulation 43-90, Program Approval Standards for South Carolina Teacher Education Institutions, establishes that all teacher education programs meet the standards of the national accreditation association with which the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has a partnership agreement. For State Board approval, public institutions must seek and receive national accreditation. Private institutions may seek national accreditation or meet national standards through a state review process. Statutory authority to determine accreditation decisions for and impose sanctions against teacher education programs is granted to the State Board.

In 2015, the SCDE entered a partnership agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), and the State Board has adopted the CAEP standards as the national provider standards which all South Carolina institutions must meet to achieve or maintain accreditation status. This partnership was renewed in July 2022. CAEP serves as the accrediting organization for institutions seeking national accreditation in the state. Private institutions seeking accreditation may participate in a national review through CAEP or a state review process to meet the same national standards. The SCDE and the Professional Review Committee (PRC) recommend that the State Board recognize the CAEP accreditation decision for USC–Upstate as summarized below:

Institution:	USC–Upstate
Accrediting	Organization: CAEP
Level:	Initial-Level Certification Programs
Accreditation Status:	Accreditation
Validity Period:	04/19/2026 through 12/31/2032

The CAEP Accreditation Council grants Accreditation when it determines that an EPP meets all standards, even if areas for improvement (AFIs) are identified in the final decision. USC–Upstate received a CAEP designation of accreditation for initial-level certification programs. The next accreditation review will take place in Spring 2032 for this institution.

The Accreditation Report includes the overall accreditation decision and information regarding each standard evaluated as a part of the accreditation process. As part of the accreditation review, each institution also demonstrated evidence that state requirements were sufficiently met.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

December 8-10, 2025	CAEP conducts the site visit with national and state reviewers for USC–Upstate.
April 25, 2026	The CAEP Accreditation Council considers the reviewer findings for this institution.
May 8, 2026	The CAEP Accreditation Council notifies the institution of their accreditation status and provides documentation to the SCDE.
August 4, 2026	The SCDE recommends that the State Board affirm the CAEP accreditation decision for USC–Upstate.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST: N/A

FUND/SOURCE: N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments: ☒ yes ☐ no
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

Name of Attachments: University of South Carolina–Upstate Accreditation Report

RECOMMENDATION

The SCDE recommends that the State Board affirm the CAEP accreditation decision for USC–Upstate.

ACTION REQUEST

FOR APPROVAL:

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

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