



Memo

Date: July 2, 2026
To: Deans and Directors, Faculties and Schools of Education
Copy: Linda Lacroix, OCT/EAO, Registrar and CEO
From: Anna-Marie Nielsen, OCT, MEd, Director, Standards of Practice and Accreditation
Subject: Changes to Accreditation Regulation and Initial Teacher Education Programs

On June 11, 2026, the Council of the Ontario College of Teachers (the College) approved proposed amendments to [Ontario Regulation 347/02 Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs](#) (Accreditation Regulation) related to changes to initial teacher education programs associated with Bill 101, *Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026* (Bill 101). The amendments to the regulation were filed on June 19, 2026.

This memo is intended to explain these amendments and the related changes to initial teacher education programs.

What Has Changed

The Accreditation Regulation amendments change the duration of initial teacher education programs from the current four-semester model to a three-semester, 12-month consecutive model, effective May 1, 2027. The new model maintains the minimum 80-day practicum and core content requirements. It also clarifies that

the three-semester model consists of 45 postsecondary credits or their equivalent.¹

The amendments support the continuity of existing initial teacher education programs during the implementation of the new model, as well as operational efficiency improvements to the accreditation process.

What Providers Need to Know

The transitional period is from June 19, 2026 to April 30, 2027.

Effective May 1, 2027, initial teacher education programs must run consecutively and conclude within 12 months of the program start date. An exception exists for multi-session programs that are not required to be completed within 12 months or have their semesters run consecutively. However, they must be equivalent to three academic semesters (45 postsecondary credits) with a minimum of 80 practicum days.

Providers with Renewal Dates Prior to December 1, 2027

Providers with accreditation renewal dates prior to December 1, 2027 may make a request in writing for an extension of their accreditation period for up to two years from the program's expiry date while concurrently offering the new three-

¹ The equivalency applies to providers using a different credit count system based on the same total instructional hours. The 45 credit model is based on 12 hours per credit. The 7.5 credit model is based on 72 hours per credit.

semester, 12-month consecutive program. Extension requests to existing accredited programs must be agreed to by the Accreditation Committee.

Not a Substantial Change of Program

Changes made to a program to meet the new accreditation requirements are not considered substantial changes under the Accreditation Regulation. Changes made beyond this compliance purpose may be considered substantial and may require a program change application.

Attestations and Verification Reports

Every provider will be required to submit an attestation to the College prior to May 1, 2027, that each of their programs will satisfy the new Accreditation Regulation requirements effective May 1, 2027.

Each provider will also be required to submit a verification report no later than November 1, 2027, including the following supporting documents:

- At-A-Glance Charts
- Practicum Assessment Forms
- Course Descriptions, including Learning Outcomes

Further details on the format and requirements of the attestation and verification reports will be provided at a technical briefing on July 29, 2026.

The Accreditation Committee will review each verification report and issue a decision in writing.

New Providers and New Programs Seeking Accreditation Before May 1, 2027

A provider seeking accreditation of a new initial teacher education program during the transitional period may apply for accreditation under the amended Accreditation Regulation, despite the new requirements not coming into force until May 1, 2027. However, the new initial teacher education program will not be deemed accredited until a decision is issued by the Accreditation Committee at which point the program may begin on or after May 1, 2027.

If you have any questions about the information provided, or any specific questions regarding program accreditation, please feel free to contact me directly at anielsen@oct.ca.

Sincerely,

Anna-Marie Nielsen, OCT, MEd
Director, Standards of Practice and Accreditation
Ontario College of Teachers