

# Catherine Leahy Brine Educational Consultants, Inc.

Brockton, Massachusetts

Secondary Preparation Program



## Secondary preparation program structure:

Publicly available information on this program is insufficient to provide information on its components

Teacher candidate enrollment: **57** (2011-2012)

Teacher production: **56** (2011-2012)

(2013 Title II Reports)

## Secondary Preparation Program Grade

**D**

## Score Breakdown

### Alt Cert Std A: Selection Criteria

○

By employing sufficiently high but pragmatic admissions standards, the program is designed to attract talented individuals who otherwise would not choose to teach.

*Selection criteria for admission into the program do not satisfy this standard because neither requirements for post-secondary grade point averages nor standardized test scores are set sufficiently high to ensure that candidates have the requisite academic talent. And although the program may interview candidates and/or require “critical thinking” assessments, the program does not require candidates to audition, and so cannot ascertain whether a candidate has non-academic traits important for teaching.*

### Alt Cert Std B: Subject Area Expertise

●

Before teacher candidates have full-fledged teaching responsibilities, the program ensures their content mastery in every subject for which they could be responsible for instruction.

*Without a thorough grasp of the subject they will teach—typically acquired by majoring in an academic discipline—secondary teachers will be unable to provide the sophisticated level of instruction that their students need to progress. All children deserve to have teachers who are well versed in each and every one of the subjects they teach, regardless of teacher shortages that may be used to justify preparation shortcuts. Alternative certification programs should make sure, by either reviewing transcripts or requiring that candidates pass rigorous assessments, that before secondary candidates enter the classroom as the teachers of record they know the subjects they will teach. We have evaluated programs on this standard with an eye toward regulations in each state regarding the nature of multiple-subject certification and required content licensing tests. Because our evaluation parallels the evaluation conducted for*

secondary preparation in traditional teacher preparation programs, more information can be found in the scoring methodology for the comparable standard applied to such programs, Standard 8: High School Content.

The program only partly meets this standard because although it reviews transcripts or requires content testing, it offers one multiple-subject certification for which its review of the content preparation of candidates is not adequate to ensure that all teacher candidates have sufficient content knowledge in every subject they will be qualified to teach. The multiple-subject certification is in the area of:

- Social science

The program's review of the content preparation of candidates in one or more of these single-subject certifications is adequate:

- English
- Mathematics
- Specific sciences (such as Biology or Chemistry)
- Specific social sciences (such as History or Government)

**Alt Cert Std C: Supervised Practice**



The program provides adequate supervised classroom instruction practice opportunities.

If a program relies solely on clinical practice prior to having the candidate enter the classroom as the teacher of record, the placement for practice should fulfill minimal requirements: a placement of sufficient length to allow at least three weeks of full time instruction, five or more formal observations, and mentoring by a teacher who has been selected due to mentoring skills and demonstrated effectiveness as measured by student performance.

The program's score for this standard has been imputed based on the nature of information provided on its features across all standards. There is every indication that the program does not satisfy the standard based either on the absence of information one would expect to be provided in publicly available materials were the features above available, or on the corroboration in information that is publicly available that its features do not rise to this level of adequacy.

**Alt Cert Std D: Evidence of Effectiveness**

**NA**

The program's graduates have a positive impact on student learning.

A score on this standard is not applicable because evaluation depends on reports on the relative effectiveness of the program's graduates from a teacher preparation student performance data model; either 1) the program's state does not publish any such report, 2) the state publishes such a report, but the results do not pertain specifically to only this secondary program, or 3) the state publishes such a report, but the results for this program are not consistent for two consecutive years.

