

July 12, 2000

Mrs. Ellen Rodgers Smith
1408 7th Street North
Columbus, MS 39701-3429

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards. Mississippi is an NCATE partner state and all public teacher preparation programs are required to have NCATE accreditation. However, Mississippi does not currently utilize these standards to guide the licensure, evaluation, or compensation of practicing teachers. The latest NCATE standards reflect National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) and call for higher admissions, performance, and graduation standards.

Again, many thanks for your letter and for sharing your concerns with me.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr