

Promoting literacy through research, education, and advocacy.™

January 21, 2022

Valerie Piccini
Program Director, MEd in Reading Specialist
Carlow University
3333 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Valerie,

I am writing with congratulations on the result of our review of your programs:

- MEd in Reading Specialist

IDA accredits **MEd in Reading Specialist** at the **Accreditation Plus** level for its alignment with the IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading, for a period of five years.

By January 1, 2025, **Carlow University** will be required to submit a mid-point review demonstrating impact metrics and documenting any significant changes to this program involving curriculum, faculty, or program leadership. If there are any substantive changes prior to the mid-point review, you must make the IDA Accreditation Department aware. Your program will be reviewed again in the Fall 2027.

Based on the review of your program, an audit will be sent to the Center for Effective Reading Instruction. CERI will be in contact to affirm which level of certification your students will be eligible for upon passing the KPEERI exam.

In support of the recommendation to accredit your program, the IDA review team commended its strong alignment with the IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards and the thought and planning that went into its development.

Based on the materials that were submitted, the IDA review team offers the following recommendations to strengthen the programs:

Comments:

1. The Review Team found that the application information was very strong with clear description of overall content of the training and practicum expectations.
2. The Review Team has concluded that your program address all of the IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards for the Teaching of Reading (KPS) within the coursework offerings as described in Standard 1- 5

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3. The Review Team found that the program provided rubrics that covered all elements of the instructional program, the practicum, and the portfolio requirements.
4. The Review team found that the instructors and practicum supervisors were expert in their content courses, in Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading- from SPED and diverse learning profiles - to Wilson, OG and LETRS.

Based on the materials that were submitted, the IDA review team offers the following recommendations to strengthen the program:

1. Standards 3.3, 3.7 & 3.8 more in-depth instruction over the difference between formal and informal assessments, how to interpret the most common assessments, and why we use diagnostics.
2. Standards 4G.2 & 4G.3 be more explicit in teaching handwriting routines (manuscript and cursive) and spelling
3. The review team suggests that the practicum is increased to the minimum requirements based on IDA minimum recommendation of:
 - **14 Weeks of Student Contact**
 - 45 Minute Intervention Sessions
 - 28 Sessions
 - 3 Formal Observations

In the coming weeks, IDA will send out a press release announcing your school among the newly Accredited Programs. We will be promoting the Accredited Programs in IDA publications in the coming months. Please note that the language contained in this letter should not be used for marketing purposes.

Thank you for undertaking the considerable work involved in the IDA review process and for furthering efforts in Structured Literacy training for educators.

Sincerely,



Ms. Sonja Banks
CEO International Dyslexia Association