



Highlights from the CoAEMSP Board Meeting April 30-May 1, 2026

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TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Michael J. Souter, MB, ChB, DA, FRCA, FNCS, Chair, Board of Directors
George W Hatch, Jr., EdD, EMT-P, LP, FAEMS, Executive Director

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met April 30-May 1, 2026, in Savannah, Georgia. The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the Board's work. CoAEMSP provides official updates to sponsors via the Board Highlights 30 days after each Board meeting. The highlights from the board meeting are as follows.

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 55 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, the number of programs:
 - CAAHEP Accredited Programs = 681 (increase of 6)
 - LoR Programs = 128
 - No status, but in progress = 57

For a current list of AEMT and paramedic programs, visit [here](#).

3. **Professional Development.** The Board actively participates in professional development at least once a year, and the emphasis for this session was on the current accreditation landscape, including the negotiated rulemaking.
4. **Clinical and Field Advocacy.** Access to clinical rotations and field internships is a challenge for programs, and access to student learning opportunities is not limited to the EMS professions.

Advocacy resources have been developed. The Board discussed challenges in expanding clinical and field resources and in developing pathways for partnering with organizations.
5. **Finance Committee.** The organization's budget was approved for the 2026-27 fiscal year, which is July to June. Additionally, reviewed the audit for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
6. **Governance Committee.** The Governance Committee conducted a whole-scale review of the Board Policy Manual, and the Board approved it.

7. **ACCREDITCON Committee** is hosting the annual conference, which is focused on the accreditation standards for AEMT and paramedic education programs. The 2026 event is in New Orleans, May 27-31, 2026. Of the 11 sponsors of CoAEMSP, five chose to have an exhibit booth, complimentary of CoAEMSP.

Mark your calendars for the 2027 event, which will take place June 2-6, in New Orleans. You are invited to exhibit. The booth space is complimentary. If you would like to exhibit, please email jennifer@coaemsp.org. Learn more at www.accreditcon.org.

8. **Policy & Interpretations Committee.** Artificial intelligence impacts the work of programs writing accreditation reports; therefore, a policy was passed:

“Programs may utilize artificial intelligence (AI) tools to assist in the preparation of accreditation materials. However, all submitted content must accurately reflect the program’s policies, procedures, operations, curriculum, outcomes, and compliance with standards. Programs remain responsible for verifying the accuracy, completeness, and authenticity of all submitted materials. Source information used for AI-generated content must be available. Any use of AI-generated tools and/or content in materials submitted to CoAEMSP must be disclosed.”

View the CoAEMSP Policy Manual for Programs [here](#).

9. **Program Directors Focus Group.** The fourth cohort of the PDFG will be seated this summer. Based on feedback from the previous PDFGs, the Board voted to extend the appointments from one year to two years. Beginning in 2027, 12 members of the 2026-2027 PDFG will serve for two years, and the next application process will seat 12 new PDFG members to serve for two years, establishing a staggered appointment schedule with half of the group changing each year.

The PDFG provides expertise and insights to the CoAEMSP Board of Directors, especially relating to day-to-day operational aspects of CAAHEP-accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR) paramedic programs.

Learn more [here](#).

10. **Quality Improvement & Site Visits Committee.** The Board passed a policy that required the definition of a substantially underperforming program. The outcomes data were reviewed for the last 5 years of collected annual report data (2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019) to determine the standard deviation. The following policy was approved for Substantially Underperforming Program:

“A program is substantially underperforming when one or more outcomes (Retention, Certification, and Placement) fall significantly below established thresholds (70%) to a degree suggesting that systemic program issues have led to a failure to comply with standards.

Criteria that define “substantially underperforming” may include:

- a. Any single outcome measure below 60% for two or more consecutive reporting years.
- b. The same two outcome thresholds are not met (below 70%) for two consecutive reporting years.
- c. All outcome thresholds are not met in one year.”

11. **Data Committee.** Shared research conducted with the 2023 (collected in 2025) CoAEMSP Annual Report about distance education and how CoAEMSP is collecting more granular information about student performance through their post-graduate experience.

Selected a vendor to develop the Accreditation Management System (AMS). Read the announcement [here](#).

12. **Fair Practices Work Group.** The Fair Practices Work Group was established to advance the quality of EMS education through accreditation, mutual respect, and equitable opportunities for success.

13. **Strategic Plan.** Assessed the success of achieving the goals identified in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan:

- Goal #1: Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation → operational
- Goal #2: Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents → vendor selected, in implementation'
- Goal #3: Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process → operational
- Goal #4: Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces → operational
- Goal #5: Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience → operational

Approved the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan:

- Goal #1: Build and leverage internal resources and infrastructure to optimize operations and support quality program outcomes.
- Goal #2: Expand leadership development opportunities for program directors and educators.
- Goal #3: Strengthen the peer review process
- Goal #4: Shape the future of EMS programmatic accreditation through evidence-based research and data

Visit the Strategic Plan webpage [here](#).

14. Future Board Meetings

2026

August 6	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11-3p Central Time
November 4-5-6	Board of Directors Meeting	Denver, CO

2027

February 4	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11-3p Central Time
May 5-6-7	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD
June 2-6	ACCREDITCON	New Orleans, LA
August 5	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11-3p Central Time
November 3-4-5	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD

2028

February 3	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11a-4p Central Time
May 3-4-5	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD
May 31-June 4	ACCREDITCON	Atlanta, GA
August 3	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11a-4p Central Time
November 8-9-10	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD

2029

February 1	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11a-4p Central Time
May 2-3-4	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD
May 30-June 3	ACCREDITCON	Atlanta, GA
August 2	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11a-4p Central Time
November 7-8-9	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD