

**VSBPE**

**Date: February 13, 2019**

**Item: ROPA Handbook Revision of Section 7**

**ITEM: Shall the VSBPE revise Section 7 of the ROPA Handbook?**

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators adopt the proposed changes to Section 7 of the ROPA Handbook.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Agency received multiple inquires in the fall of 2018 from educator preparation programs connected to EPIC activities that programs did or did not believe were required for ROPA approval. Many of these questions were also centered around the costs of membership in EPIC. Agency staff found information on the EPIC webpage that seemed to be in conflict with the ROPA handbook.

In response to these questions and confusions, the VSBPE requested clarification from EPIC about cost of membership and what activities are made available free of charge.

**RATIONALE:**

At its December meeting, the VSBPE expressed an intention to be clear that calibration is an essential element of the VLP. To effectuate the VSBPE's wishes, the language is more clear that 1) the VSBPE will designate one or more entities to provide annual review of VLPs and 2) educator preparation programs will participate in calibration sessions organized by the designated entity/entities.

The second set of changes delete transition language in current policy which is no longer necessary.

**Attached:** ROPA Handbook Section 7 edits.

## Section 7. Vermont Level I Licensure Portfolio

### Overview

Pre-service educator candidates in Vermont educator preparation programs leading to recommendation for Level I Educator Licensure must use the Vermont Licensure Portfolio (VLP). ~~The VLP was designed by a committee comprised of members of ROPA approved programs, the Vermont Council of Teacher Educators (VCTE), the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE), and the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE).~~

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In addition to using the Vermont Licensure Portfolio, educator preparation programs are expected to annually submit completed educator candidate's VLPs to a VSBPE designated entity and participate in calibration session provided by a VSBPE designated entity to ensure consistency and quality for all Vermont programs who are authorized to recommend licensure. ~~participate in the state-wide calibration system, including the VLP Interrater reliability process.~~

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Recommendations ~~for to the the state-wide calibration system for the Portfolio~~ Vermont Licensure Portfolio ~~portfolio~~ may be submitted to the VSBPE for consideration. ~~, including professional development and recommendations for system improvements, were made by The Educator Preparation Inquiry Collaborative (EPIC) for VSBPE review and approval.~~

### Portfolio Implementation

The roll out of the Portfolio occurred over the 2015-2016 academic year and allowed for a transition period for preparation programs to re-design their curriculum so that it aligns with the Core Teaching Standards and the new Portfolio requirements. Proposed changes, based on feedback during the pilot year, were approved by the VSBPE in June of 2016. Recommendations for the state-wide calibration system for the Portfolio, including professional development and recommendations for system improvements, were made by The Educator Preparation Inquiry Collaborative (EPIC) for VSBPE review and approval.

#### • Implementation Timeline

- o The Portfolio requirement applied to entering pre-service educators in undergraduate educator preparation programs starting in fall 2015. Preservice teachers graduating in the 2018/2019 academic year will all be required to submit the new licensure portfolio.
- o The Portfolio requirement applied to entering pre-service educators in all other programs (graduate, post baccalaureate, alternative) in fall 2016.

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#### • Professional Development

- o Orientation & Calibration (summer & fall 2015)
- o Curriculum Mapping (2015-2016)

• Evaluation, Calibration and Program Feedback (starting in summer 2015 and ongoing) o Baseline Evaluation

• 2015-2016— Invite all programs to participate in pilot-year implementation, collecting evidence for revision and improvement of the VLP;

• 2016-2017— Invite all programs to participate in review of material related to the scholarship of educator preparation;

• Summer 2017— Invite all programs to submit random samples of Entry V (old version) or New Portfolio Part II; o Annual Evaluation and Calibration of Portfolio



February 1, 2019

Eric Remmers  
Chair, VSBPE  
Re.: EPIC Information Letter

The Educator Preparation Inquiry Collaborative (EPIC) is a voluntary, independent association for individuals interested in scholarly inquiry and practice regarding educator preparation. EPIC is a 501c(3) organization governed by a member-elected Board of Directors. Membership in the association is open to all individuals interested in inquiry in educator preparation.

The purposes of the association are

- to provide scholarship-based professional learning opportunities for educator preparation programs, particularly for calibration of candidates' licensure portfolios;
- to organize a network of practitioners, scholars, and others interested in formal inquiry related to issues of educator preparation;
- to conduct, sponsor, and support literature study, data analyses, and research studies related to educator preparation; and,
- to highlight scholarship regarding educator preparation, induction, and development for the consideration of various stakeholders.

A primary project for EPIC is to establish and actuate the *VLP Statewide Calibration System* for the Vermont Licensure Portfolio (VLP). In accordance with the criteria established and approved by the VSBPE, the VLP is a process that includes both instructional and assessment material, and a statewide system to assure calibration of portfolio implementation. In order to meet the need for a statewide calibration system, personnel from Vermont's educator preparation programs formed EPIC as a voluntary peer-to-peer network community wherein all users of the VLP participate in a series of events to assure validity and reliability of the VLP, and to reduce bias in scoring: *Professional Learning Sessions*, *Statewide Scoring Sessions*, and an *Annual Conference & Business Meeting*.

As an element of the *VLP Statewide Calibration System*, EPIC receives, organizes, and collates commentary on the VLP from the educator preparation community and prepares and issues an annual report for the educator preparation community and the VSBPE. Currently, EPIC also implements edits to the VLP textual material as recommended by the educator preparation community--through the EPIC annual report--and as approved by the VSBPE, and distributes this material to the community.

Each institution in Vermont that sponsors an educator preparation program is encouraged to join the association as an institutional member and to appoint a designated *Institutional Representative*.

There are three types of membership for EPIC.

#### Institutional Membership

- Available to Vermont institutions that sponsor an educator preparation program;
- Allows faculty and staff of the institution to serve on executive and standing committees;
- Each institution appoints a faculty or staff member as an Institutional Representative with privileges to vote on affairs of the association and recommendations regarding the VLP;
- Requires annual membership dues (currently \$100.00);

#### Individual Membership

- Available for individuals interested in inquiry regarding educator preparation;
- Allows members to serve on executive and standing committees;
- May vote for individuals to serve on the Board of Directors;
- Requires annual membership dues (currently \$10.00);

#### Student Membership

- Available for individuals currently enrolled in an educator preparation program;
- Allows members to attend EPIC events and to present at the Annual Conference;
- Does not require membership dues;

All members of the educator preparation community in VT are welcome to attend EPIC VLP events (*Professional Learning Sessions; Statewide Scoring Sessions; and the Annual Conference & Business Meeting*) without membership or fees: All EPIC VLP events are available to the VT educator preparation community without cost.

In summary, EPIC's intention is to form a network for individuals interested in inquiry related to educator preparation and, in particular, a collaborative partnership between implementers of the VLP for the establishment of a valid and reliable statewide calibration system. For additional information, please contact one of the EPIC Co-Directors

David J. McGough, Ph.D.  
david.mcgough@northernvermont.edu  
121 McClelland Hall  
Northern Vermont University  
Johnson, VT 05656  
(802) 635-1416

Claudine Bedell, Ed.D.  
cbedell@smcvt.edu  
#304 Saint Edmunds Hall  
Saint Michael's College  
Box 281  
Colchester, Vermont 05439  
802.654.2741