

Education Quality Team
Staff Report for November 19, 2020

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Division Director

The licensing team has spent much of the past month has been focused on cleaning up after the extended licensing expiration date. There remain applications open due to pending background checks. Our licensing staff has been working with VCIC and others to ensure fingerprints are being processed. We are also continuing to reach out to educators as needed to explain hits on background checks. Additionally, the pandemic has created specific challenges for some of our licensed educators living and practicing overseas. We are working to support them, specifically with fingerprints.

We have also been working with our Education Preparation Programs to ensure that they are fully prepared for the capricious nature of the pandemic. As of 16 November, all EPPs but one who have student teachers placed beginning in January have submitted substantive change plans to address conceivable eventualities. One specific challenge that EPPs have faced and been successful in doing so are Vermont's quarantine rules. Student teachers who head out of state for the holidays will have to quarantine for two weeks before starting their placements. Coupled with many programs having to start student teaching placements before regular classes begin, this presents many challenges. EPPS and candidates have shown creativity and flexibility in meeting these challenges, while maintaining the commitment of thirteen weeks of student teaching.

We issued one waiver to an educator for the Praxis Core. She met all of the conditions for a waiver. Her license is limited to her LEA of employment.

Finally, we noticed that we failed to include a grade level in the revised reading specialist endorsement, now to be called the Specialized Literacy Practitioner. We revised the endorsement add a PK-12 grade level to the new endorsement. Additionally, we have added an option of a limited endorsement of Pk-6 and 7-12, if an educator requests such a limitation. If the board has any questions or concerns, we can bring it forward for a full review and vote.

From the Education Quality Division: Ron Ryan, Education Programs Manager

Lisa Pierson made calls to all the fingerprinting centers recently, as we had heard word that at least one center was closed down. Based on the information she collected it looks like all centers are open except one. We will continue to monitor this.

L/RSB: D. Giles has submitted 52/58 Grant Agreements for the 2020-2021 year to Finance. October reminders were sent to Boards who have yet to submit an Annual Report and /or a Grant Application.

Employment types served by L/RSBs have been updated in ALiS.

Deb is in the process of sending 2021 renewal lists to L/RSBs. The list is only as valid as an educator's employment history on the day the list is sent.

Online meetings are being scheduled with individual Boards. Several Boards have already scheduled a meeting.

Deb has been addressing questions and concerns from L/RSBs and educators.

Specialists continue to process payments and wait for completed Criminal Record Reports to request payments to complete the 2020 renewal cycle. Approximately 3500 renewals have been approved to date.

Deb G. sent out an informed newsletter for all the local L/RSB's to keep them updated.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 11-12-2020: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	193
Reinstatement	18
Renewal	60
Retired	6
Temporary	33
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	1
Transcript Review – Initial	31
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	30
Peer Review - Initial	51
Peer Review – Add endorsement	30