

VSBE Agenda Item 3(A)

Approved AOE ECE/ECSE Provisional License Policy

ITEM: Shall the VSBE approve continuation of the VSBE approved AOE ECE/ECSE Provisional License for Private Prekindergarten Programs Policy for the following years: Cohort 3 (2023-2025) and Cohort 4 (2024-2026).

ITEM: Shall the VSBE approve the additional approval criteria of passing Praxis II

BACKGROUND: The VSBE approved the AOE ECE/ECSE Provisional License Policy March 2021. From the [AOE Universal Prekindergarten Website](#)

Vermont Agency of Education Offering Opportunity for Qualified Applicants to obtain Early Childhood Educator Provisional License

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBE) has approved an Agency of Education (AOE) Early Childhood Educator or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECE/ECSE) provisional license specifically for qualifying individuals who are employed or contract with private prekindergarten (PreK) education programs. Private PreK programs must either be pursuing or maintaining current prequalification status under Universal Prekindergarten Education Law (Act 166).

Superintendent Provisional License

It is the preference of the VSBE that all applicants for ECE/ECSE provisional licenses work first with the local SU/SD superintendent to build relationships across settings and to support the youth in their shared community. However, circumstances may arise where a Superintendent is unable to endorse a request for a provisional license and an alternative route is necessary.

Superintendents, at their discretion, may approve a provisional license for a private prekindergarten program individual. If a superintendent wishes to submit a provisional application on behalf of a private program individual, the [VSBE Licensing Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators](#) criteria and procedures for temporary licenses (Rules 5351-5356) are applicable. A superintendent denial for a provisional license is required evidence for applying for an AOE ECE/ECSE provisional license.

Beginning June 1st, 2021, the Vermont Agency of Education - Early Education Team will accept ECE/ECSE provisional license applicant requests on a first come, first serve basis from candidates that work or contract with private prekindergarten programs. The first step is to review the [AOE Early Childhood Educator Provisional License](#) qualifications to determine if you or another individual in your private PreK program may be a possible candidate. Second step is to complete the [Act 166 Universal Prekindergarten Changes to Prequalified Program Form](#).

RATIONALE:

As it is across all sectors, finding qualified staff, especially licensed ECE/ECSE, is difficult when the applicant pool is shallow. The numbers listed below represent the need for the continuation of the VSBPE approved AOE ECE/ECSE provisional license waiver for private Universal Prekindergarten programs struggling to hire a licensed ECE or ECSE.

2021-2023 Cohort 1 The AOE Early Childhood Education Team issued

- **25** AOE ECE provisional licenses and
- **6** Superintendents issued ECE provisional licenses to private UPK education programs.

2022-2024 Cohort 2 The AOE Early Childhood Education Team issued/in process

- **28** AOE ECE provisional licenses (11/22/2022) and
- **4** Superintendent issued ECE provisional license to a private UPK education program (11/22/2022).

Total of 63 provisional licenses issued to private UPK prequalified programs.

Mentor Support & Funding

Collaboration with Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC) based on private grant awarded.

Preschool Development Grant (PDG) AOE approved, with Secretary French's approval, funding for licensed ECE/ECSE mentors as required by the AOE ECE/ECSE Provisional License Waiver for private prekindergarten programs.