

## **VSBPE**

**Date: March 12, 2020**

**Item: Student Teaching and COVID-19**

**ITEM: Shall the VSBPE approve the Agency's Draft Response to Impact on Student Teaching of Potential Closures of Schools Due to Coronavirus?**

### **AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBPE approve the Agency's recommendation to hold a student harmless when student teaching placements are cut short due to a school or an EPP closing due to coronavirus when the student has completed at least half of the required student teaching placement, receives a written recommendation of their efficacy from the cooperating teacher and the EPP student teaching coordinator. This does not serve as a precedent for other reasons a student teaching placement might not reach the required thirteen weeks.**

**That the VSBPE approve the Agency's recommendation to grant a Provisional License to students when student teaching placements are cut short due to a school or an EPP closing due to coronavirus and the student did not receive a written recommendation of their efficacy from the cooperating teacher and the EPP student teaching coordinator. This does not serve as a precedent for other reasons a student teaching placement might not reach the required thirteen weeks.**

As schools and IHEs across the state are planning for contingencies for the coronavirus outbreak, a couple of Educator Preparation Programs are seeking guidance on the status of their students currently completing their student teaching should the schools in which they are teaching have to close. Such a closure would mean that EPPs would not be able to recommend these students for licensure as, under Rule 5924.1, as they have not completed thirteen consecutive weeks of student teaching. EPPs are looking to the Standards Board to provide guidance should these concerns come to pass.

As a starting point for the conversation, the Office recommends the following:

- Should a school in which a student teacher is placed close or should an IHE which a student teacher attends close or move to all remote classes (as the University of Washington has just done), a student who is currently in a student teaching placement shall be held harmless if:
  - The student has completed at least half of the required student teaching placement;

- Receives a written recommendation of their efficacy from the cooperating teacher; and
- Receives a written recommendation of their efficacy from the EPP student teaching coordinator
- If a student's placement is cut short and does not receive a written recommendation from both the cooperating teacher and the EPP student teaching coordinator, the AOE will grant a provisional license to an applicant, making the candidate able to be hired. Upon completion of the remaining required weeks of student teaching, the provisional license shall be upgraded to a Level I license with the recommendation of the supervising administrator. For example, if eight of the required thirteen weeks of student teaching were completed before a school closing, the candidate would need five weeks of teaching under the provisional before the supervising administrator could recommend for a Level I license.
- This applies only to student teaching placements cut short due to a school or an EPP closing due to coronavirus and does not serve as a precedent for other reasons a student teaching placement might not reach the required thirteen weeks.

To recommend for licensure, an EPP must affirmatively review a student's Vermont Licensure Portfolio (VLP). Although a premature end to student teaching could limit the evidence available for inclusion in the VLP, the EPP retains the ability to assess a student's facility in meeting competencies with consideration of any limitations based on school closures.