

## **Education Quality Team**

### ***Staff Report for March 11, 2021***

#### **From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Division Director**

We continue to move forward with license renewals for the 2021 season. As Ron mentions below, we have more than 5,000 expiring licenses this year due to 7- and 5-year license both coming due. We are currently keeping up with the demand. Fortunately, there have been few COVID-related limitations educators have had to overcome to gain relicensure.

We have seen the beginnings of waiver requests for more than 30 consecutive days of substitute teaching in a single placement. We received two such requests from Barre. After reviewing the first, we determined that the candidate was eligible for a provisional license, which Barre has pursued. The office granted the second waiver request through the end of the academic year for an educator teaching secondary Health. The educator previously held a provisional license in Spanish and served as substitute in this same classroom for three weeks last year.

Amy was notified by the Secretary of State's Office regarding a change for the public comment period for the proposed Rule changes. To align with Statute, the public comment period will begin on March 26<sup>th</sup> and end on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will set time on the April 13<sup>th</sup> agenda to review the public comments and vote to submit to LCAR.

As the rules are progressing through the approval process, the office granted a "second initial" license to an educator. The educator previously held a social studies license that expired in 2017. Instead of having to reinstate her social studies license and then apply for a special education license through transcript review, the office issued her a special education license directly, without the reinstatement. When the new rules are official, this will be standard practice in these cases.

Peer Review is going well. Many educators from last year's COVID cohort are wrapping up concurrently with this year's. While busy, we are mostly able to keep up with the demand. Overall, the panelist pool is solid. We are successfully recruiting OTS panelists to keep up with the demand but struggling to find CTE panelists. Additionally, Peer Review has three educators working under emergencies licenses who do not qualify for a provisional license due to their degrees. They are all working on Praxis Testing. If they are unable to complete their testing soon, they will bring forward waiver requests at the May board to extend their emergency licenses through the end of the August conditional on registering for a Praxis test over the summer. With a passing Praxis II, the candidates would be eligible for a provisional license. All three candidates have relevant work experience but lack the degree requirements. Two of the candidates are unable to take Praxis II remotely.

ROPA has a review with Southern New Hampshire University scheduled for June.

Two sessions of the ROPA 'winter conferences' have recently been held. These are effectively check-ins with our EPPs; all programs seem to be doing well, all things considered. There is a nice [article in the NYTimes](#) regarding the president of Norwich University living in the dorm for a week. It represents the institution well.

We have recently seen two cases of applicants unable to obtain official transcripts from their universities due to financial holds placed on their accounts as a result of student debt. After consideration within the

division, we decided to accept unofficial transcripts for initial licensure, but required an official copy to be submitted by the end of the calendar year. While ensuring the legitimacy of preparation is essential, this can be done sufficiently with an unofficial transcript. We determined that is not the role of the Education Quality division to support IHEs in collecting outstanding student debt.

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

**2021 Renewals**

- We have had a steady stream of renewals coming in on a daily basis since opening the applications in January. We are currently averaging about 130 renewals per week.
- Fingerprinting centers have created some issues with processing renewals, because some of them are still not doing prints, while others are open. We are working with the applicants on extending our 15- day rule if they need more time.
- The total number of renewals projected for 2021 is 5072. We are still in the transition phase of receiving 5 and 7 year renewals for 2021. This will be the last year of 7-year renewals.
- Deb Giles has kept communication open with the LSB/RSB’s with respect to deadlines and the renewal process through online meetings, newsletters, and emails.
- The Educator Licensing Team has been meeting with AOE Early Education Team to review the provisional license policy/procedures to be implemented for a prequalified private PreK education program should that route be needed.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 2-25-2021: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	128
Reinstatement	15
Renewal	342
Retired	5
Temporary	13
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	0
Transcript Review – Initial	31
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	41
Peer Review - Initial	57
Peer Review – Add endorsement	27