

VSBE

Date: Jan. 10, 2024

Item: Middlebury Request for Approval for Out-of-State Student Teacher

ITEM: Shall the VSBE approve Middlebury College's request for approval to place a student teacher outside of Vermont?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBE approve Middlebury's request to place one candidate out of state as requested, with the condition that they develop a policy to address any future out-of-state placements, as required by Policy N10.

BACKGROUND:

Per Policy N10, an approved Educator Preparation Program must have a written policy, approved by this Board, in order to place their student teachers with non-Vermont licensed cooperating teachers, i.e. out of state.

Jonathan Miller-Lane has submitted the information below for consideration.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

POLICY N10

Policy on Student Teacher Placement With A Non-Vermont Licensed Cooperating Teacher

In order to place student teachers with non-Vermont licensed cooperating teachers, educator preparation programs must have a written policy, approved by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBE), for these placements. This policy will be reviewed as part of the ROPA process.

Each educator preparation program will submit policies and procedures ensuring the quality of these placements consistent with Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals including the Core Teaching and Leadership Standards for Vermont Educators as well as any additional requirements for the endorsement area(s).

Data concerning these placements will be maintained by each program and included in the Institutional Portfolio for review.

Alternate routes to licensure are also subject to this policy.

Email from Middlebury:

I am writing in my role as Program Director for the Middlebury Education Studies Program to request approval from the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) for one, out of state, student teacher/Practicum placement for fall semester 2024 for Evelyn Magdaleno. Evelyn is a double major in History and Education Studies working towards an endorsement in secondary social studies.

Evelyn is a POSSE scholar and has been an excellent student throughout her time at Middlebury. She has expressed a strong interest to return to Chicago, IL, after graduation, to teach in the city in which she was raised and educated. She is committed to public education and all her pre-practicum experiences here in VT have been positive. However, since Evelyn wants to teach in Chicago, she has asked that her student-teaching experience also take place in that city.

We have arranged for Evelyn to complete her 13 week, student teaching semester, during fall semester 2024, with Kathryn Hollerbach, social studies teacher and the school supervisor for pre-service teachers at Lindbloom Math and Science Academy, a public high school in Chicago. Ms. Hollerbach is an experienced educator with a Masters Degree. We have been in email correspondence with Ms. Hollerbach for a year now and have had two, Zoom conference calls to review the VT state requirements for licensure and ensure that the placement will meet our state expectations. Everything is in fine order. Evelyn attended Lindbloom as a student and Ms. Hollerbach is thrilled at the opportunity to work with Evelyn as her cooperating teacher. Due to the improvements in classroom observation technology, I will be able to serve as her college supervisor from afar.

As a Program, we do not take this request lightly. We realize the challenges involved but given Evelyn's maturity and demonstrated competence in her pre-practicum experiences, and the unique circumstances of the placement in which the Cooperating Teacher is not only very experienced with apprenticing pre-service teachers, but also knows Evelyn very well, we are confident that this placement will be successful and will provide Evelyn with the experience she needs to prepare her to be an excellent teacher.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Miller-Lane, Ph.D.

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Middlebury College
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More Information

The ROPA Coordinator let Jonathan Miller-Lane know that the Office would be supporting Middlebury's request but would recommend that Middlebury submit a policy for future cases such as this. Jonathan followed up with this information:

1. We have had numerous discussions in house regarding developing a formal policy and I have been working on figuring out if there is a partner school, in an urban setting (such as Barnard college in NYC), with whom we might work out an agreement for students who want to do their student teaching in a city. If we could find a partner we could then present our proposal to the VSBPE. However, the calendar logistics let alone the Byzantine financial logistics regarding such a "semester abroad but in the USA" have been fatal to our efforts. Hence, after Evelyn, we are considering moving away from even allowing such placements in the future. BUT,
2. It is tricky because Middlebury is matriculating far more students of color and first generation college students than ever before—many of who are very conscious of the impact that education has had on their lives. They want to be teachers. Yet, they do not want to teach in Vermont given the demographics. Hence, the effort to find a partner for urban placements for student teaching. And, I keep encountering institutional roadblocks (where does financial aid go?, for example). Doing these placements one at a time is too much work and not sustainable for a small program like ours, BUT we do not want to turn away really marvelous young people interested in teaching. A Luta Continua..
3. Meanwhile, we will draw up a policy for these one-off placements that we can agree on in-house and then present it to the VSBPE. We keep track of them the same as all others.
4. The POSSE Foundation is a national, youth leadership organization that has three goals:
 - To expand the pool from which top colleges and universities can recruit outstanding young leaders from diverse backgrounds.
 - To help these institutions build more interactive campus environments so that they can be more welcoming for people from all backgrounds.
 - To ensure that Posse Scholars persist in their academic studies and graduate so they can take on leadership positions in the workforce.
5. Middlebury was among the first placement sites and we now have a group of ten such students from Chicago, New York and LA each year (total of 30 POSSE scholars each year). The name comes from a student of color who was attending an historically white institution and who said it would have been easier if he had a "posse" with him who understood what he was going through. Here is the link to their website:
<https://www.possefoundation.org/shaping-the-future/mission-history>

I wish I could be there, but I have class on the 10th and will not be able to attend in person. Thank you for your help and support.

Jonathan