

**VSBPE**

**Date: November 19, 2024**

**Item: Spark Apprenticeship Pilot**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE approve the Spark Apprenticeship Pilot program until June 30, 2026 (two school years).

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBPE approve the Spark Apprenticeship Pilot program until June 30, 2026.**

**BACKGROUND:**

Spark Teacher Education Institute is a ROPA approved educator preparation program based in Brattleboro, Vermont, with an emphasis on Social Justice education for candidates. Previously partnered with Marlboro College prior to it's closing, Spark has now expanded its partnership with Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) and had shifted from degree programing, so alternative pathways for school staff.

Most recently Spark is a recipient of \$70,380 in Emerging Pathways Grant funding to support WSESU staffing needs. Spark will be using these funds to support individual educators seeking licensure across the workforce, from supporting Paraeducators seeing an initial license, to veteran teachers adding and endorsement.

Since Sparks new focus is on meeting immediate staffing needs within a district partnership, they are requesting approval for expanding approval to all endorsement areas on an as needed basis.

Under this new model, Sparks core programing will focus on VLP seminars, content knowledge evaluations, support teams, and Individualized Learning Plans for candidates. Spark and WSESU staff will provide individualized support for each candidate to review content endorsements, evaluate candidate knowledge, and identify new learning.

**RESOURCES:**

Spark Apprenticeship Program Overview (pdf)

<https://sparkteachered.org/home/>