

VSBPE

Date: Feb. 8, 2024

Item: Revision to Policy Q3

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE approve of the revision to Policy Q3 to establish a process for approval of 1-year provisional licenses for Special Education endorsements.

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBPE approve the revision to Policy Q3 to establish a process for approval of 1-year provisional licenses for Special Education endorsements.

BACKGROUND:

Policy Q3 and Rule 5355.2 were developed in response to federal guidance around temporary licensure that is no longer current.

On October 4th 2022 the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs issued a memo titled "Personnel Qualifications under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)." This letter provides new guidance around temporary licensure of special educators, including language allowing for up-to-three years for individuals to work under a provisional license, while completing a licensure program.

On January 16th, 2024, a multitude of stakeholders wrote a letter titled "Provisional Licensure for Special Educators in Vermont" and submitted it to the AOE and VSBPE members. In the letter, stakeholders cite updated federal guidance and requested the AOE and VSBPE take action to update rule and policy.

Because removing 5355.2 from rule would not go into effect until the completion of rule making, an update to VSBPE policy Q3 will streamline the current process.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

[Personnel Qualifications under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#)

POLICY Q3 - Policy on Special Education Endorsements - Provisional Licenses

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) in order to be in compliance with Federal policy regarding Special Education ~~will not~~ shall grant an additional one-year Provisional License for ~~any~~ a Special Educator endorsement **if the Office determines the license holder:**

- 1. receives high-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused**
- 2. participates in a program of intensive supervision that consists of structured guidance and regular ongoing support for teachers or a teacher mentoring program;**
- 3. assumes the functions as a teacher only for a specified period of time not to exceed three years; and**
- 4. demonstrates satisfactory progress toward full certification as prescribed by the State.**