



Graduate Education Program

July 16, 2021

Dear Members of the Vermont Standards Board of Professional Educators,

In response to the June 11, 2021 changes in the *Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals*, the Graduate Education Program at Saint Michael's College plans to transition our 76-Reading English Language Arts Specialist endorsement program to the 79-Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement program. In consultation with the faculty who teach in our Master of Education and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies Literacy Concentration, we carefully reviewed the new endorsement competencies and aligned those competencies with the courses we currently offer. Through this review, we determined that although many of the revised competencies would be met by our current required courses, two courses needed to be added to the program for those seeking the 79-Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement to ensure all competencies would be met. These two courses, [GED 511 Fundamentals of Curriculum](#) and [GED 621 Supervision, Evaluation, and Teacher Development](#), while new to the literacy program, are currently offered as part of our school leadership endorsement programs. The alignment of our proposed program is outlined in the [competency chart](#). We will also ensure candidates hold a master's degree, whether completed through one of our master's programs or elsewhere, prior to recommending them for the new endorsement. The [current and revised Catalog listings](#) outline the program requirements as they currently appear in our Catalog and will appear upon approval of our new program by the Board. Course descriptions are accessible via the purple course titles on the linked Catalog document.

In addition to adding GED 511 *Fundamentals of Curriculum* and GED 621 *Supervision, Evaluation, and Teacher Development* as requirements (highlighted in green on the [competency chart](#)), we have modified [GED 606](#) and redesigned our practicum ([GED 688D](#)) to align with the new competencies, particularly 3.2.10, 3.3.1, and 6. With the 76-Reading English Language Arts Specialist endorsement, candidates completed two case studies in the practicum as the primary way to demonstrate their meeting of the competencies for their portfolio. In the redesigned practicum, the assignments include one case study and an opportunity for candidates to assess a school- or district-wide literacy need, and to work collaboratively with teachers and administrators to design, lead, and evaluate a professional development program in response to that need.

We are in the process of confirming our current 76-Reading English Language Arts Specialist candidates' plans for completing either the 76-Reading English Language Arts Specialist endorsement or the new 79-Specialized Literacy Professional. Our goal is to have all candidates who intend to finish the 76-Reading English Language Arts Specialist endorsement do so by June 30, 2022. If any candidates will not be able to complete the program by that time, we will inform Patrick Halladay, Director of the Education Quality Division, of who those candidates are, with the understanding that they will need to complete the program by June 30, 2023.

Thank you for taking the time to review our proposal.

Sincerely,

Amy Saks Pavese, Graduate Education Director
Tess Dussling, Literacy Concentration Coordinator
James Nagle, Education Department Chair

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