

# AOE Provisional ECE/ECSE Licenses for UPK Private Programs





# Act 166 PreK Education Defined

**What defines Vermont's Universal Prekindergarten Education (UPK)** is the implementation of high-quality, effective instruction by licensed educators who use evidence-based practices within intentionally designed early learning environments.

Early educators align curriculum with the Vermont Early Learning Standards while adapting experiences to support the full participation of each and every child to realize their full potential and promote successful outcomes.

# Act 166 Universal Prekindergarten Requirement # 4



- 4. VT licensed Early Childhood Educator (ECE) or Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE)
- Private UPK programs must have a licensed ECE/ECSE present during PreK instructional 10 hours –
- Family Child Care Home Providers must employ, contract with or be mentored by a licensed ECE/ECSE



# Why an AOE Provisional License Waiver?

Superintendent is unable to endorse a request for a private program provisional license and an alternative route is necessary.

As it is across all sectors, private childcare programs are challenged in finding qualified staff, especially licensed ECE/ECSE, when the applicant pool is shallow.

Inequity of access to UPK education especially for children and families in rural areas of Vermont where there are limited number of UPK slots.

# Provisional Timeline & Numbers

- **March 2021** VSBPE approved AOE ECE/ECSE provisional license waiver for private prekindergarten education programs.
    - 25 slots per cohort
  - **Winter 2021** VSBPE approved additional **15 slots** per cohort
    - 40/cohort
  - **Fall-Winter 2022-2023**
    - Cohort 1 totals **25/40**
    - Cohort 2 totals **28/40**
    - Superintendent **10** provisional licenses for private programs
- Total: **53** AOE VSBPE ECE provisional license waivers approved
- **Winter 2023** Requesting additional two more cohorts with new approval criteria. **Cohort 3 2023-2025 and Cohort 4 2024-2026.**

# CURRENT APPROVAL CRITERIA

- ✓ UPK approved program who lost licensed ECE or a program seeking initial UPK approval.
- ✓ Denied a superintendent provisional.
- ✓ Bachelor's degree in early childhood or relevant major with 15-18 credits in early childhood related coursework.
- ✓ Provisional plan for how to achieve licensure within two years
  - ✓ Peer Review/VTHEC/State College System.
- ✓ Engaged a licensed ECE/ECSE mentor for support
  - ✓ Grant award supported



# ADDITIONAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

That the VSBPE approve the additional approval criteria

- **Valid VT Educator license or another state (any endorsement)**
  - Provisional plan to add the ECE/ECSE endorsement through Peer Review, Transcript Review or a ECE/ECSE licensure program
- **Expired Educator license (any endorsement)**
  - Provisional plan to reinstate expired license and/or add the ECE/ECSE endorsement through Peer Review, Transcript Review or a ECE/ECSE licensure program
- If a provisional applicant who holds a bachelor's degree major that **does not meet** the 15-18 credits of early childhood education related course work.
  - **Praxis II #5025 Early Childhood Education (required for K-grade 3) exam** (\$146/exam) **OR**
  - **Praxis II #5531 Early Childhood Education (PreK ages 2-5) exam** (\$146/exam)
  - Provisional plan for initial licensure in ECE/ECSE endorsement through Peer Review, Transcript Review or an ECE/ECSE initial licensure program





## TA SUPPORTS/MENTOR

**VTAEYC Collaboration:** Connects mentors with mentees and provides stipend to mentors through a grant. Possible grant extension.

**Preschool Development Grant** AOE proposed, with Secretary French's approval, funding for licensed ECE/ECSE mentors as required by the AOE ECE/ECSE Provisional License Waiver for private prekindergarten programs. (awarded December 2022)

**VTAEYC/AOE Monthly Mentor/Mentee TA Support Meetings:** Google folder with licensure information and materials, mentor information and materials, and recordings of meetings.

**Provisional License Monitoring/TA to Mentee:** Universal PreK Coordinator quarterly (September, December, March and June) progress check in and available anytime for TA questions/supports.



THE END



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR PRESENTATION ☺

Wendy Scott,  
Universal Prekindergarten State Coordinator

[Wendy.Scott@vermont.gov](mailto:Wendy.Scott@vermont.gov)



Time for  
Questions



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY