

**VSBPE**

**Date: April 4, 2019**

**Item: ROPA Handbook Revision of Section 7**

**ITEM: Shall the VSBPE revise Section 7 of the ROPA Handbook as shown in the attached document?**

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators revise Section 7 of the ROPA Handbook with the changes shown in the attached document.**

**BACKGROUND:** There has been some confusion about the expectation to participate in the calibration system that is run by the EPIC group, as well as the perceived requirement to pay EPIC dues in order to be a member of that group. At a recent VSBPE meeting, Emily Simmons of the AOE legal team recommended that the Board amend the wording to clarify the requirements for Educator Preparation Programs. The PAC answered the following questions at their meeting on March 12, 2019:

1. Is it a requirement for programs to participate in state-wide calibration of the VLP (whether run by EPIC or not?): YES.
2. Are alternate route programs (Peer Review) required to participate in calibration? (if so, the wording should be changed from EPPs to Approved Licensure Programs): YES
3. How is participation in calibration enforced, if it is a requirement? (i.e. is it through the ROPA process?): Approved programs should attest to their participation in calibration in their Annual ROPA Report, and add information about how they have used the results of their calibration as evidence in their Institutional Portfolio at their full ROPA review. The VSBPE will annually review proposals from the field regarding changes to the VLP, and will inform approved programs about any changes.

**RATIONALE:** Programs should be clear about what is required of them in regards to calibration of the VLP, and from where the authority to mandate the requirements comes. There also should be clarity about the expectations for participating in EPIC, including paying the annual membership fee, and how the VLP and calibration requirement align with program approval through the ROPA process. As EPIC is currently the entity that performs the calibration activity, it has been clarified by EPIC that there are no fees or dues required in order to participate in the calibration process.

**Attached:** Proposed language for ROPA Handbook Section 7.