

**VSBPE****DATE:** May 20, 2020**ITEM:** Will the VSBPE act to update the Online Teaching Specialist add-on endorsement from a 18-credit requirement to a 9-credit requirement?**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:** The VSBPE act to update Online Teaching Specialist endorsement from an 18-credit requirement to a 9-credit requirement.

**BACKGROUND:** At the March 2020 VSBPE meeting the Board discussed the issue of changing the Online Teaching Specialist (OTS) endorsement from an 18-credit requirement to a 9-credit requirement. The OTS is an add-on endorsement. One can only get the endorsement if one already holds a valid VT educator license. One may act as the OTS teacher of record only in the area/s where one is endorsed aside from the OTS. For example, if someone is a math teacher and has the OTS, that person may only act as an OTS in math. VSBPE rule states that eighteen credits are required to add an endorsement or as specified on the endorsement. In the OTS endorsement, 9 of those credits may come from the content area where the applicant is already endorsed. For example, a math teacher that has applied to add the OTS may show 9 credits in the content area of math to fulfill the 18-credit requirement.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Requiring a licensed educator who is applying for the OTS to demonstrate that the educator has taken coursework in the content area of the license is a perfunctory, overly bureaucratic, hoop to jump through. By virtue of the fact that the person holds a license, the person is deemed competent in the content area of the license. Requiring the person to demonstrate 9 credits of course work in the content area where the OTS will be utilized, is not necessary.

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:** OTS endorsement

## 5440 – 25 Online Teaching Specialist

(Revised June 2018)

*The holder is authorized to teach students from a distance who are enrolled in online coursework. This endorsement is an add-on endorsement only and is limited to holders of PK-12 endorsements whose employment is considered teaching experience. The holder's area of online instruction and instructional level shall be indicated on the endorsement.*

In order to qualify for this endorsement, the candidate shall demonstrate the following:

### 1. Knowledge Standards:

1.1. Demonstrates knowledge of how to plan, deliver, and evaluate online instruction as delineated in current national professional standards and as reflected in Vermont's Framework of Standards. Specifically, the educator understands and/or knows:

1.2. Central concepts – central concepts and current and developing theories that are central to the field of online teaching and learning.

1.3. Technology Skills- A continuum of technologies relevant to the online learning environment both existing and emerging, that effectively support student learning and engagement in the online environment

1.4. Teaching in an Online Environment- principles of effective online instruction and strategies that promote creativity and innovation in virtual environments

1.5. Legal and Ethical Practice- Legal and ethical online behavior related to technology use

1.6. Accommodating Students with Special Needs- Legal mandates stipulated by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Section 508 requirements for accessibility including how to adapt curriculum, instruction, and assessments to accommodate students with special needs in the online environment

1.7. Online Assessments- How to design, develop, and implement online assessments to accurately measure student learning and how to evaluate relevant data

### 2. Performance Standards:

2.1. Implements a comprehensive, standards-based curriculum in subject area of educator's endorsement that incorporates technology standards and enables students to acquire content knowledge and skills. Specifically, the educator:

2.2. Uses a range of technologies relevant to online learning environments to support student learning that are appropriate to students' ages and abilities, such as multimedia, synchronous and asynchronous communication technologies, and Open Education Resources (OER)

2.3. Establishes clear expectations, employs effective, prompt communication, and provides regular feedback to students in a variety of formats.

2.4. Creates personalized, online learning environments for students that encourage active learning, real- world application, participation, and collaboration including collecting and using student data from the learning management system to inform instructional improvements

2.5. Models and manages safe, legal, and ethical online behavior

2.6. Adapts curriculum and instruction to meet diverse student needs in the online environment, including accommodating students with special needs

2.7. Organizes materials, instruction, and procedures to online meet standards-based and personalized learning goals

2.8. Creates and implements a variety of assessments in online learning environments in ways that ensure academic integrity and that accurately demonstrate student learning

3. Additional Requirements: A minor, or the equivalent, in online instruction half of which may come from the content endorsement area. A minimum of a practicum, or the equivalent, in online instruction in the area of the instructor's teaching endorsement at the K-12 level.