

## **VSBE**

**Date: January 16, 2020**

**Item: Castleton University- Report of ROPA Review Team**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBE approve the report and recommendation of the ROPA review team that visited Castleton University in October, 2019?

### **AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBE approve the report and recommendation of the ROPA review team that visited Castleton University in October, 2019.**

**Background:** A review team that had been approved by the VSBE consisting of Ellen Baker (Chair), Paul Parsons, Justin Rito, Laura Thygesen, Erik Remmers, and Ellen Cairns visited Castleton on October 17-18, 2019. The team thoroughly reviewed Castleton's Institutional Portfolio and conducted a series of interviews with faculty, current and former candidates, hiring principals, and cooperating teachers from most of the areas in which Castleton is approved to recommend candidates for licensure: Art, Elementary Education, English, Health, Math, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, and Special Education, all at the undergraduate level. Castleton is also approved to recommend candidates at the post-bac level, but that program is newer and was not up for review at this time. Castleton also has an approved Educational Leadership program that is also newer and will be submitting its initial Two-Year Report to the VSBE at its March meeting.

**Rationale:** Based on the evidence presented by Castleton in their Institutional Portfolio, the team recommends that all programs with the exception of Physical Education and Health are placed on Conditional Approval for a period of two years or sooner if Castleton presents evidence of having met all of the conditions in the report before two years. In addition, there are two stipulations in the report which must be met by the time frames indicated (one immediately, one no later than June 30, 2020). The Education Department at Castleton did not submit any corrections to the ROPA report, and do not intend to issue a rejoinder to the report. They are aware and have acknowledged that they have not been in compliance with the ROPA Rules and standards, in large part due to being severely understaffed.

Supporting document: [ROPA Team Report](#)