

## **VSBPE**

**Date: May 8, 2019**

**Item: Clarifying Policy N17, Policy on National Accreditation**

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE accept the proposed changes to Policy N17, Policy on National Accreditation?

### **AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBPE accepts the proposed changes to Policy N17, Policy on National Accreditation.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

A representative from a college asked if accreditation from their national organization could be used in lieu of a ROPA visit for approval of a new program. A different approved program submitted their national accreditation with a request to have it approved in lieu of their ROPA visit that was not to take place for seven years (2025). These questions prompted a discussion and a request for increased clarification in this policy.

### **RATIONALE:**

To clarify the policy for the field:

- When approved plans may and must submit their request to use national accreditation in lieu of their full ROPA visit
- If national accreditation may be used in lieu of a ROPA visit for initial program approval
- The expectation of the recency of the external review
- What counts as national accreditation

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Policy N17, current version and proposed new version**

## **POLICY N17 (current)**

### **Policy on National Accreditation**

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) will consider accepting national accreditation as a substitute for a Results Oriented Program Approval (ROPA) review at the formal request of an institution or alternate route program made two years in advance of a program's regularly scheduled review.

Approval of educator preparation programs of an institution or alternate route is contingent upon submission of the national accrediting body's report to the Agency of Education, and an on-site review conducted by the VSBPE, or the Office, of Level I Licensure portfolios, where appropriate. Additionally, institutions and alternate route programs must document their meeting of *Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals* by successfully completing a rules check with an Agency of Education representative.

## **POLICY N17 (proposed)**

### **Policy on Using National Accreditation for ROPA Approval**

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) will consider accepting national accreditation as a substitute for a Results Oriented Program Approval (ROPA) review at the formal request of an institution or alternate route program made no more than two years and no less than one year in advance of a program's regularly scheduled review. This option is for programs that currently have VSBPE approval through the ROPA review process, and does not apply to new programs seeking approval.

National accreditation is considered here to mean review and approval by an organization that has national approval as an accreditor specifically for the purpose of educator preparation accreditation.

Approval is contingent upon submission of the national accrediting body's report to the Agency of Education and supporting documentation showing the correlation between the standards used by the national organization and the ROPA standards. The Office will review the documentation submitted to determine if it meets these guidelines. The VSBPE may request an on-site review of Vermont Licensure Portfolios conducted by the VSBPE or the Office. Additionally, all programs must document their compliance with the *Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals* by successfully completing a Rules check with an Agency of Education representative.