

Education Quality Team *Staff Report*

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Division

Clearly our working conditions have changes substantially since we had our last formal Standards Board meeting. I'd like to start by recognizing the continued fantastic work of the Education Quality Staff. We have processed more licenses this year than we had at the same time last year. We have conducted our first ROPA virtual ROPA review. We have made virtual Peer Review interviews quotidian. And the division has continually focused on the needs of schools and educators above all else.

Next, I'd like to thank the Standards Board from their prescience at the March board meeting. Pre-emptively provide clarity around student teaching interruptions, a waiver for on-line instruction, and, at our abbreviated April meeting, an extension on license expirations has created a good deal of clarity where uncertainty has otherwise prevailed.

We would like to formally welcome Jeannette Martin to our team as our new program tech. Jeannette comes to us from the Attorney General's office and, before, the Office of Professional Regulation in the Secretary of State. She has been thrown into the deep end, trying to complete work remotely for a job that is designed to be office-based. She has forged virtual relationships with her colleagues, as meeting in person has not been possible. We are excited to have her on board and even more excited to start to get to know her better when we eventually begin to return to the office.

To that end, on Friday, 15 May, the governor extended the state of emergency for an additional month. Though the National Life building remains open, there is no immediate plan to begin to return to on-site work. We have been able to accomplish most all tasks remotely, though a bit more traditional comradery and a bit less Teams would be welcome. Additionally, based on the action taken by the Standards Board at our April meeting, licenses originally set to expire on 30 June will now be active until at least 15 September.

The licensing team has regularly updated COVID-related FAQs for both Educator Preparation Programs and their students and educators throughout the shutdown. Both FAQs can be found on the [AOE COVID information page](#). Additionally, the licensing team hosted a question and answer session for Educator Preparation Programs on Tuesday, 19 May, with 17 EPP representatives present.

We granted one educator waiver this month. An educator already granted a waiver to teach at Central Vermont Technical Center accepted a new position at Randolph Technical Center. As the original waiver limited the educator to working at Central Vermont, the director of

Randolph requested that a waiver be granted allowing the educator to work in Randolph. The waiver was granted on April 29, 2020.

From the Education Quality Division: Ron Ryan, Education Programs Manager

L/RSB: L/RSBs are meeting remotely due to COVID-19. Boards work with educators through e-mail, phone, or by an online portal. Renewals continue to be processed and as of Friday, May 15th approximately 55% of the total 2020 renewals issued had been received at the AOE. Many renewals remain “Under Review” due to the closure of fingerprinting agencies. Bi-weekly updates have been e-mailed to all Boards since the AOE started working remotely. Annual Reports will soon be sent out to all Boards and this year the Grant Application will be part of the Annual Report due to a change in the grant process. Deb Giles continues to respond to e-mails from educators and to respond by e-mail and phone to L/RSB Chairs and members regarding any question they may have at this time.

The licensing team continues to work remotely. Credit to the licensing team for continuing to respond promptly to Emails, phone calls and questions as they arise. All applications have continued to be processed during this COVID-19 era. Lack of fingerprinting centers and testing centers being opened have caused delays in some applications; however, those applicants have been patient with keeping their applications open until they are able to setup fingerprinting and testing appointments as centers begin to reopen.

Temporary licenses will begin to increase soon. They can be submitted after June 1st. As of now we will not be requiring fingerprinting, however, will revisit this after the first of the year.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 5-18-2020: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	160
Reinstatement	27
Renewal	544
Retired	10
Temporary	4
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	2
Transcript Review – Initial	45
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	88
Peer Review - Initial	63
Peer Review – Add endorsement	14

From the Education Quality Division: Terry Reilly, Pre-Service Educator Quality Programs

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) endorsement revision group met remotely March 26th. At that time, it was decided the group will postpone the revision work until social distancing measures permit it. COVID19 also was the reason for the cancelation of the Teacher of the Visually Impaired endorsement. All endorsement revision groups for 2020 have been delayed as the result of COVID19 social distancing protocols. While of course this is not a welcomed circumstance, fortunately it comes at a time when all the endorsements are up to date. Something that has not occurred since before 2016.

The driver education VSBPE work committee has completed its report. It includes nine recommendations intended to open the Driver and Traffic Safety Education teacher pipeline. Among them is the recommendation that a CTE sub-endorsement be created in Driver and Traffic Safety Education. The report also includes letters of support from the state's CTE Directors and Driver and Traffic Safety Education teachers.

ROPA

Recent ROPA work items include:

- Policy N15
- Castleton University 2-Year Report
- Revised ROPA Standards
- UVM Computer Science ROPA Report
- NVU Johnson: ROPA Review Changes
- NVU Lyndon: ROPA Review Delay
- HEC: ROPA Review Changes
- Norwich Follow-Up

Peer Review

- 41 total in Peer Review Coordinator work queue
- 2 in Unassigned "Add" work queue
- 16 in Unassigned "Initial" work queue – 1 portfolio
- 7 paid waiting for interview – no panelists, letter given
- 1 paid waiting for interview – scheduling in process
- 10 interviews scheduled
- 3 review waiting for payment
- 5 reviewed waiting for revisions
- 3 Portfolios to be review