

VSBPE

Date: Aug. 5, 2021

Item: UVM School Librarian Program Request

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE accept UVM's request for the AOE to accept working as a School Librarian under a Provisional license in lieu of traditional Student Teaching when a candidate applies for initial licensure as a School Librarian through Transcript Review?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBPE accept UVM's request for the AOE to accept working as a School Librarian under a Provisional license in lieu of traditional Student Teaching when a candidate applies for initial licensure as a School Librarian through Transcript Review.

BACKGROUND: UVM has a non-VSBPE-approved program which is aligned with the School Librarian competencies. Usually, educators who take that course sequence are already licensed in another endorsement and only need to complete a practicum (along with the coursework) to add the School Librarian endorsement. Occasionally, there is a candidate who is not already a licensed educator who completes UVM's course sequence. Through a Transcript Review, the Office has determined that the course sequence also aligns with the Core Teaching Standards. The only requirement not met by a candidate who completes UVM's course sequence is Student Teaching. UVM is requesting that the Board grant a waiver to the Office to be able to accept a Transcript Review applicant's experience as a School Librarian while working under a Provisional License in lieu of traditional Student Teaching.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Letter from UVM



July 27, 2021

To VSBPE

Re: Request for Waiver for Required Traditional Student Teaching or Initial Licensure for School Librarians on Provisional Licenses

From: Judith Kaplan, Program Lead, UVM School Library Studies; Ellen Baker, Director of Teacher Education, University of Vermont

Brief description of program:

- Since 1969, UVM has continued to offer graduate coursework for Vermont educators who want to become School Librarians, a specialty profession within PreK -12 education. Courses were, and are available as standalone courses, or as courses that lead to the MEd in Curriculum & Instruction. Many Vermont school librarians have achieved an advanced degree through this program and continue to lead school libraries in Vermont today.
- The School Library Studies Sequence continues to be the only in-state Vermont source for initial preparation for School Librarians, now offered in an asynchronous/synchronous format. Courses fill each semester with 18-25 candidates who are working towards Vermont State Licensure, or the MEd.
- The demand for School Librarians is driven by the recognition that school libraries are essential to learners and learning in Vermont schools, and are embedded within Vermont Education Quality Standards (2014). The Vermont Agency of Education includes School Librarians in the list of Educator Shortages-#2 (VT AOE, 2018-19). The UVM courses are aligned with the Vermont School Librarian endorsement, and support candidates who qualify for Transcript Review, and Transcript Review for Initial Licensure for a limited number of endorsements, including School Librarian.
- The coursework is designed to align with both the school librarian endorsement standards and the Vermont Core Teaching Standards.
- Current candidates in the sequence:
 - Candidates who enroll in courses and have been hired on provisional licenses.
 - Candidates who are licensed educators seeking an additional endorsement.
 - Candidates who are seeking the School Librarian endorsement who do not have an education background.

Request for waiver of Traditional Student Teaching for Initial Licensure for School Librarians

- Initial Licensure candidates who are hired on provisional licenses are required to develop a two-year plan to indicate how the School Librarian endorsement and Vermont Core Teaching Standards will be met. This plan is approved by the superintendent of the district or supervisory union where they are employed. District administrators are assigned to supervise the candidate, and monitor progress, and certify achievement for the goals in the plan.

- According to the Transcript Review worksheets for Initial Licensure (Vermont Core Teaching Standards and School Librarian endorsement), there are additional requirements:
 - Core Teaching Standards additional requirements:
 - *13 consecutive weeks of Student Teaching or the equivalent as defined on the applicable endorsement competency worksheet.*
 - School Librarian endorsement additional requirements:
 - *Please note educators who wish to add any additional endorsement will need to provide documentation of having met the Core Teaching Standards with general education coursework AND the required 13 consecutive weeks of Student Teaching or an equivalent experience.*

Since the candidates are employed and receiving their supervised 13-week equivalent experience for Student Teaching while working, this does not appear on their transcript. The UVM School Library Studies Sequence is requesting that:

- *The Vermont State Board of Professional Educators will allow the Licensing Office of the Vermont Agency of Education to consider a documented equivalent 13-week experience which is supervised by an administrator and mentor librarian, for the purpose of granting an initial license for School Librarian. This document can be submitted in the form of a letter from the school administrator who is supervising the candidate, and the mentor librarian. An observation will occur every 10 days during this experience. This documentation will be submitted to the AOE with the Transcript Review worksheets.*