

VSBPE

Date: April 13, 2021

Item: Vermont Higher Education Collaborative (VT-HEC) Request for ROPA Review

ITEM: Vermont Higher Education Collaborative has requested a ROPA review to earn VSBPE approval to recommend candidates for initial licensure in the endorsement areas in which HEC recently received approval to recommend for additional licensure.

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBPE approve Vermont Higher Education Collaborative's request, pending receipt of the standard \$2000 new program review fee, and authorize the Office to put together a review team and set a date for the review.

BACKGROUND: VT-HEC is currently approved to recommend currently licensed teachers for additional endorsements in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, and Special Education. They have been preparing candidates for initial licensure as well, but at this time, those candidates must go through Peer Review to earn their license. HEC would like to be able to recommend those candidates for licensure, thus saving them the time and expense of Peer Review. The letter from HEC is not a complete application, as there was uncertainty if a full ROPA review would be necessary. After discussion, our recommendation is that the Board directs the Office to put together a team to conduct a review of the program's evidence for the Core Teaching Standards, Student Teaching, and the ROPA Standards that were excluded from the prior review as not applicable.

RATIONALE: Although we initially were uncertain if a full ROPA review and the fee for conducting one would be necessary, based on the foundational nature of the Core Teaching Standards, the importance of a high-quality student teaching experience, and the abbreviated ROPA Standards that were used for HEC's prior ROPA review, we believe that a full ROPA review is indicated.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: HEC's letter requesting the review for VSBPE approval to recommend their candidates for initial licensure.