

VSBPE

Date: 11 January 2023

Item: Transcript Review for Initial Licensure

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE approve of a two-year trial to allow candidates who complete the proposed NVU/VtSU expedited special education course sequence to apply for initial licensure through Transcript Review

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators allow candidates who complete the proposed NVU/VtSU special education course sequence to apply for initial licensure with a special education endorsement. This waiver would be in place through February 2026, at which time the board would review the program and determine future approval.

BACKGROUND: In response to Standards Board action to address shortages in special education, NVU/VtSU has developed a series of four classes aligned with the special education standards and an additional course focused on supervision of provisionally licensed educators and preparation of the Vermont Licensure Portfolio. This sequence would be in place to begin for the first cohort in summer 2023. A course would be offered in summer 2023, fall 2023, winter 2023/2024, and spring 2024, with the supervision and portfolio development course offered in fall 2024. The sequence would be repeated beginning in the summer of 2024.

At this point, NVU does not wish to seek ROPA approval for this sequence. Rather, they are requesting that educators who complete this sequence be allowed to apply for initial licensure through Transcript Review. Currently, if there is an approved program from an education preparation program in Vermont, Transcript Review cannot be used to obtain initial licensure. This request asks the board to waive that limitation.

This waiver would be in place through February 2026, allowing two cohorts of NVU/VtSU candidates to complete the sequence. At that point, the board would review the status of the sequence and determine future approval.

RATIONALE:

This sequence acts as a model for potential grow your own preparation designs for other endorsements and education preparation programs in Vermont. As such, allowing program flexibility permits the AOE to study the efficacy of alternative routes to licensure in response to teacher shortages.