

VSBE Agenda Item 4(LC): Proposed Policy G6 Middle Grades Licensure Option

ITEM: Shall the VSBE approve a policy allowing educators currently holding a secondary (7-12) content area endorsement an additional pathway to middle grades licensure?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION: The VSBE shall adopt policy G6 to create a new pathway to middle grades licensure allowing educators currently holding a secondary (7-12) content area endorsement to add a middle grades endorsement in the same content area.

BACKGROUND: Educators with a secondary (grades 7-12) content area endorsement (math, social studies, English, science) are licensed to teach at most middle grades levels; however, as most middle schools are grades 6-8 (some are 5-9), educators on a secondary endorsement cannot teach in all grades. While this grade span limit intends to ensure these educators are well-trained in the tenets of middle grades philosophy, it does limit the flexibility of teachers to teach in the lower reaches of middle schools.

Under current practice, these educators have two options to add the same content area endorsement for middle grades: a three-course sequence focusing on curriculum, pedagogy, and learning styles of middle grades students with an application through Transcript Review or application through Peer Review.

Policy G6 outlines the steps an educator would need to qualify for a license through this new process.

POLICY G6

Policy on Alternative Route to Middle Grades Licensure

Educators holding a secondary (grades 7-12) content area endorsement in a core academic area (math, social studies, English, science) are eligible for a middle grades endorsement in the same content area if the following conditions are met:

1. A superintendent applies for and a provisional middle grades endorsement on behalf of the educator with a **Level II license** with a secondary content area endorsement.
2. The request is granted by the Vermont Agency of Educator licensing office.
3. The educator teaches under the provisional license for two years at the 5th or 6th grade level in a middle grades setting.
4. The educator participates in a **board-approved middle grades professional learning experience** while employed under the provisional license.
5. The supervising administrator recommends the educator for a Level I middle grades endorsement in the appropriate middle grades core academic area.

*Consider recommending piloting program for two-years and revisit in Spring of 2025, correlating with the provisional license timeline.