

VSBPE

Date: 9 July 2020

Item: Driver's Education

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE accept the recommendations from the driver's education task force for updating the driver's education endorsement.

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The VSBPE accept recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 from the driver's education task force.

1. The VSBPE act to create a new sub-endorsement for the (17) Career Technical Education endorsement in the area of Driver and Traffic Safety Education
2. The VSBPE act to include language in Rule 5340 which states; "Applicants for an Apprenticeship Career Technical endorsement in Driver and Traffic Safety Education must hold appropriate licenses via the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles"
3. The VSBPE act to change authorizing statement of the current CTE endorsement so that the words "in a career and technical center" are deleted and replaced with "in a career and technical center setting"
4. The VSBPE act to set the driver ed. CTE sub-endorsement at the 9 – 12 instructional level
5. The VSBPE act to grant an apprenticeship teacher preparation program, that includes offering the course work necessary to add the driver ed. endorsement, in Vermont the authority to recommend for licensure in the area of Driver and Traffic Safety Education upon a successful application for such a program.
6. The VSBPE act to put forth a formal recommendation that the Agency of Education provide funding to seed an apprenticeship license program for Driver and Traffic Safety Education
7. The VSBPE act to advocate through a formal statement for a cooperative relationship between CTE Centers and schools so that both entities may utilize the instruction of a CTE driver ed. apprenticeship licensed teacher
8. Driver education curriculum falls within the CTE Transportation career cluster
9. The committee recommends that the Agency of Education make a concerted effort to assist the creation of an apprenticeship licensure program for Driver and Traffic Safety education. This recommendation entails the Agency of Education providing financial support in the form of eligible federal funds.

Rationale for Recommendations

Being that the Driver Ed. teacher shortage issue is critical, the committee concluded that the need for a driver ed. teacher preparation program located in Vermont is equally critical. The committee concluded that the apprenticeship license pathway is the best way to address the

critical shortage issue. To be clear, this means an approved teacher preparation program that offers all the course work necessary to recommend for licensure in driver and traffic safety education that also runs an apprenticeship component. The committee came to this conclusion because the apprenticeship pathway has the capacity to assess the competency of qualified candidates for licensure in more than one way. Qualified candidates for the apprenticeship license can demonstrate competency using course work and professional experience. This means that eligible, qualified candidates do not need to hold a bachelor's degree. Also, the apprenticeship pathway opens an opportunity for experienced driver education professionals who would otherwise be ineligible to teach in Vermont public schools. The apprenticeship license allows qualified professionals to share their knowledge with students. The committee sees this as a positive, knowing that the apprenticeship model has been a success in Vermont for well over fifteen years.

While the committee understands that the recommendation that the AOE make a concerted effort to assist the creation of an apprenticeship licensure program using allowable federal funds would be an unusual expenditure in Vermont, the group maintains its recommendation is warranted because of the critical need for driver ed. teachers. Also, the committee finds this recommendation reasonable because of the state statute requiring schools to offer access to driver education. That is, the state requires schools to provide access to driver ed., there is a critical need for equitable access to driver ed., it is therefore reasonable to suggest the state contribute funds to address the inequities relating to driver ed. in Vermont. Further, the committee notes that the current financial climate for higher education is particularly acute in Vermont. The financial reality of higher education in Vermont makes it exceedingly difficult for institutions of higher education to create new programs. While the competitive market in which higher education operates may be an ancillary consideration leading one to possibly suggest that market forces of supply and demand reveal true shortages, the committee makes the point that the demand for education exists independent of market forces. Thus, the argument that a true shortage for driver ed. would create a demand that could be met in the higher ed. market does not apply.

The recommendation to change the authorizing statement (sometimes called the holder statement) of the CTE endorsement is made to allow CTE driver ed. teachers to teach in high schools. This action will help enable schools and CTE Centers to collaborate and cooperate to provide equitable access to driver education.

The recommendation that driver education curriculum, when taught by a CTE driver ed. teacher out of a CTE Center, fall within the CTE Transportation career cluster is made to facilitate the necessary collaboration between CTE Centers and school with regard to State Board of Education (SBE) rule 2398 *Collaborative Programs*.

The recommendation to change VSBPE rule 5340 is essential in the same way that language in 5340.7 is necessary. In section of 5340, VSBPE rules require that applicants for an apprenticeship Career Technical Education endorsement in human services/personal care must hold appropriate licenses via the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation. The apprenticeship process assesses professional credentials. Holding the VT DMV driver ed. certification necessitates that one meets the VSBPE (30) Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement competencies. The VT DMV requirements for the driver education certification are based on the (30) Driver and Traffic Safety Education requirements. Therefore, in order to qualify for the DMV driver ed. certification, one must meet the (30) Driver and Traffic Safety Education endorsement competencies. Put another way, if one has one's DMV driver ed. certification, that person has met same requirements as one who went through the AOE's Transcript Review process to add the driver ed. endorsement.