

Education Quality Team Staff Report for 21 of August 2023

Updates:

We want to welcome new VSBPE Board Member Amy Pickering. Amy is currently a licensed teacher in CTE School Counseling Coordinator and a School Counselor.

We want to congratulate Andrew Prowten who is now the Assistant Director of the Education Quality Division. He will be working closely with Josh Souliere, our director. We are hoping to finalize Amy Scalabrini's replacement very soon. We are also hoping to post Andrew's previous position as Pre-Service Education Coordinator in the coming weeks.

As the new school year approaches with school districts trying to fill positions, applications have been coming in at a steady pace, especially temporary licenses, one-year Provisionals and the special education provisional waiver requests. We are still seeing a relatively long turnaround time to receive fingerprint reports back from the Vermont Crime Information Center. That timeline has been 14 weeks or more. In the meantime, the Office has extended Letters of Eligibility to accommodate the wait time for VCIC reports to be returned. Due to the recent flooding that occurred in the Montpelier and Barre areas some sheriff departments have been closed for fingerprinting or have scheduled dates out longer than 15 days. This has created longer wait times for applicants or they have had to seek other sites to get their fingerprints done.

The Office approved (1) request from South Burlington SD to fill long term sub position for 30 school days due to a medical leave at the start of the school year. The substitute will attain licensure after that point.

In working with Peer Review Coordinator Ryan McCormick, we have had to extend approximately (20) Provisionals through September 30, 2023 because of the difficulty recruiting, scheduling and coordinating panel interviews. Ryan is working very hard to recruit panelist and complete the interview schedules.

The office allowed an applicant to move forward with an application for initial licensure for a Social Studies endorsement, because the person had a recommendation from the college that the MTEL for History was taken instead of Praxis II. The Board has supported other state tests being used in the past.

The Licensing Team within the Education Quality Division offered three trainings this year for Superintendents and Human Resource personnel in May and June. The trainings covered general licensing processes including new Rule changes. Under the leadership and coordination of Deb Giles the agency offered 3 training conferences for Local and Regional Standards Boards. These trainings were well attended and held in July and August. Attendance ranged from 50 to 60 educators in each session. See Deb's August update below.

Ellen Cairns wanted to let the board know that UVM can recommend candidates for Special Education without another endorsement when the candidate completed all requirements for the Special Education Endorsement but didn't pass Praxis II for their other endorsement.

Special Education Provisional Waivers:

Currently we have 56 applications for 2023-24 school year. In May, toward the end of the school year I reported to you we had 61 applications for the 2022-23 school year. We are already at those numbers prior to this school year opening. I expect that number to grow as the school year begins.

That represents about 30 SU'S/SD'S/Private schools who have submitted applications. The breakdown of instructional levels is below:

56 Special Education Waiver Provisional applications submitted.

44 of the applications represent Grades K through Age 21 Special Education

5 of the applications represent Grades K through 8 Special Education

5 of the applications represent Grades 7 through Age 21 Special Education

2 of the applications represent Birth through Age 6 Early Childhood Education.

August 2023 Update:

L/RSBs: During the last two weeks of May and the first week of June 2023, the Licensing Team held three Regional Conferences for SU/SD Superintendents, HR Directors, Assistant to Superintendents. The conferences were held at Hampton Inn in Colchester, Lake Morey in Fairlee, and Castleton University in Castleton. The sessions ran from 9-12 AM and were attended by AOE Licensing personnel as well.

Approximately, 31 SU/SD representatives attended a training session, two (2) Interstate SDs sent a representative, along with two (2) private school academies. New licensing Rules were presented along with licensing information needed by SU/SDs especially when applying for provisional licenses. The SDs thanked the Licensing Office and VSBPE for their flexibility during these challenging times of finding qualified educators to work in SU/SDs.

In person L/RSB Summer Conferences were once again held during late July and early August (first in person training since the summer of 2019). Three trainings were held at the same venues as the Regional Conferences. New Rules, information regarding temporary licenses, L/RSB updated Plans of Operations, updated Relicensure Handbook were discussed along with other L/RSB topics. The trainings were well attended with 60/61 Boards sending representation. Special thanks to current VSBPE members who attended: Amy Minor, Amy Flannery, Jen Clement, and Christine Kurucz and who spoke on behalf of the VSBPE. I wish to acknowledge former VSBPE members who also attended a summer training: Roberta Baker, Cindy Cole, and Beth Repchick, along with the Licensing Specialists who each attended a conference.

Annual Reports for 2022-2023 were emailed to all L/RSBs the first week of June. To date, all L/RSBs have returned their Annual Report apart from four LSBs. July reminders were emailed to those LSBs.

A 2023-2024 list of L/RSB Chairs were emailed to Kristi Tate at the Vermont Superintendents' Association for inclusion in the 2023-2024 ED Directory in late July. A list of 2023-2024 VSBPE members were emailed to Kristi Tate in early August for inclusion in the ED Directory.

All Chairs and Co-Chairs for the 2023-2024 school year have been updated in ALiS and Deb is currently in the process of updating L/RSB members for the upcoming school year in ALiS and verifying the list with respective L/RSBs.

Grant Applications for the upcoming year have been put on hold due to the entire grant process and system being redesigned. The allocation for each L/RSB (less than the 2003 formula devised by the VSBPE) has been calculated and will be sent to eligible Boards upon completion of the new system and when the current process is determined.

Any educator whose license was due to expire on June 30, 2023, but who did not complete the renewal process by submitting a renewal application to the AOE by/on June 30, 2023, then that license has expired. Any educator in that situation who wishes to hold a valid Vermont License must now reinstate. More on 2022/2023 renewals during the VSBPE August meeting.

Deb continues to address L/RSB questions and concerns, along with questions from individual educators.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 8-10-2023: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	304
Reinstatement	48
Renewal	143
Retired	4
Temporary	299

1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	19
Transcript Review – Initial	65
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	67
Peer Review - Initial	103
Peer Review – Add endorsement	19