

## **VSBE**

**Date:** May 8, 2018

**Item:** Lyndon State College Two-Year Report on Early Childhood Education Program

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBE accept LSC's Two-Year Report and grant full approval to their Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program?

### **AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBE grant full approval to LSC's ECE program with the following conditions:**

**LSC's ECE program has a full review in fall of 2019 with the rest of the approved programs**

**OR**

- 1. Submits a transition plan for the coordinator of the ECE program by November 1, 2018, AND**
- 2. Corrects the ECE Student Teaching Handbook to clarify and update Supporting Teacher/Mentor Teacher policies.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Lyndon had an approved ECE program (Undergraduate and Post-bac) prior to 2016 for PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers. In spring of 2016 they applied for and received approval to recommend for Birth-PreK licensure (undergraduate). As all new programs can only receive conditional approval that is contingent upon the submission of a Two-Year Report, LSC has now submitted their required report. This report addresses the concerns that were noted during the review in 2016.

### **RATIONALE:**

Per letter that was sent from the Office to Dan Daley, licensure officer at LSC:

Letter from AOE: I took a look at the Student Teaching Handbook that was submitted for evidence, and there are a few items that are outdated (which refutes the statement in the 2-Year Report that the program is staying current with educational rules and policies, as these two items are from the VSBE Rules):

- Rule 5924.1 states that student teaching must be "a minimum of thirteen (13) consecutive weeks..." (LSC Student Teaching Handbook still has it as 12 weeks. This was changed at least as far back as the 2014 Rule revision, so I'm surprised that hasn't been noticed before).

- Rule 5924.2 states that a requirement of student teaching is “academic competence as attested by an overall 3.0 grade point average (on a 4 point scale), and a 3.0 grade point average in the field of major studies as defined by the institution, or written certification of intellectual competence by an academic dean; institutions that use alternate grading systems have the responsibility of demonstrating how their assessment is commensurate to a 3.0 grade point average.” (this was a change to the Rule that went into effect last August; prior to that, the Rules stated a “B average” so you would have been in compliance with the stated GPA requirement of 2.7).
- The LSC Handbook states that cooperating teachers must “hold **or be eligible for a** Vermont license in early childhood education...” but Rule 5924.3(b) states that “the assignment shall be with a licensed educator...”

Regarding these Handbook items: AOE wrote to Dan Daley at LSC to let him know, and received an email back from him that stated that LSC do all of those things correctly and would update the Handbook. AOE then got an e-mail from Eden Haywood-Bird that she had just attached the wrong Handbook (Nov. 2017) and she included the link that is now in the report below, which is to an updated Handbook (Dec. 2017).

AOE analysis: The updated Handbook has a confusing section on the Mentor Teacher as well as the statement highlighted above in yellow, so it still needs to be corrected. AOE has let them know that, and also requested clarification on the mentor teacher/cooperating teacher confusion in their definition of terms section under Mentor Teacher. AOE does have concerns regarding a separate Student Teaching Handbook especially for the ECE program.

Separate Issue: per the Contact Information noted on the Report, Dr. Eden Haywood-Bird, who has led this program since its inception in 2016, will be leaving LSC at the end of July. This was not mentioned in the Report section asking about changes to the program; the Board may want to ask about the plan to replace Dr. Haywood-Bird and how that will impact the program.

Aside from the items above, the PAC should review the two responses to the concerns and determine if they are satisfactory.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

LSC ECE 2018 Two-Year Report, LSC 2016 Report (link at the end of this document)

## LSC ECE Two-Year Report

Directions: Complete this template to submit your Two-Year Report. A completed submission of a Two-Year Report includes the following:

- A completed template and any accompanying documents referred to (or links to online versions of them)
- A letter from the License Officer
- A fee of \$500 (checks payable to State of Vermont)

<b>Program Name</b>	Northern Vermont University at Lyndon (formerly Lyndon State College)- Online early childhood education 0-5 licensure program
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Contact Name</b>	Until July 31 Eden Haywood-Bird
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	Eden.haywood-bird@northernvermont.edu

**Introductory Narrative Description:** Course work is delivered 90% online with 10% face to face interaction. Students meet together with the program coordinator, each semester, the Saturday before the courses are to begin. Students and faculty meet for an extended period of seven to eight hours. This will give the students a chance to connect faces to names, talk with their peers in the program, and get an introduction to their coursework for the coming semester. The program utilizes a proven adult education model of accelerated instruction. Courses are offered one at a time every five weeks during the 15 week semester, for a total of three early childhood courses each term. An additional semester long, 3000-4000 level liberal studies course is taken at any of the Vermont State Colleges to meet the Vermont Agency of Education's licensure requirements. This enables students to take a full-time student course load without being overwhelmed by taking four courses at one time. While the licensure program is aligned to graduates of the CCV Early Childhood AA program, the outcome goals for the entire program are threefold and all students regardless of educational background (degree status of AA/AS or BA/BS) will complete the same course sequence:

- Provide students who already hold a bachelor's degree a chance to complete coursework leading to a Vermont Early Childhood teaching license.

- Provide students who already have an associate’s degree in Early Childhood to complete a bachelor’s degree in early childhood leading to a Vermont Early Childhood teaching license.
- Provide already working and licensed teachers in Vermont who hold an endorsement in another concentration area the opportunity to add an early childhood endorsement.

## I. Program Overview

### Initial Licensure

<b>Program</b>	<b>Delivery Model</b>	<b>Number of Graduates in The Last 3 Years</b>	<b>Number of Enrollees</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Early childhood birth-age 5 licensure</i>	<i>90% online</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>First graduates will be spring 2018, there are currently two cohorts in process with a third starting Fall 2018.</i>

## Additional Endorsement Programs

## II. Introduction: Program Update

1. Are there any major changes at the institution that have impacted or may impact the educator preparation program(s)?
  - a. Lyndon State and Johnson State will merge into a single institution, Northern Vermont University, effective July 1, 2018. The impact on programs is not yet known.
2. Are you anticipating any substantive changes to your preparation programs?
  - a. No.
3. How is your program staying compliant with any new educational laws, initiatives, and other changes in the field since your last review?

- a. The program was developed using the latest VELs, Standards for Educators, new portfolio, and ROPA documents. For the future, the education department chair will be the point person for keeping the program aware of upcoming changes to laws, initiatives and other changes.

### **III. Program Stipulations**

There were no stipulations in the 2016 Report.

### **IV. Progress Addressing Concerns**

There were only two concerns in the 2016 Report:

1. LSC should consider how they will provide training and support to a potential network of mentor teachers/cooperating teachers who could be scattered throughout the state so that candidates receive equitable guidance and supervision from their mentor teachers.
  
1. For the online program, the basic process of vetting cooperating teachers in the traditional, face to face program was used as a guide. Mentors had to have at birth-age 5 or birth-age 8 teaching licensed. For the first cohort, there are seven student teachers. Of the seven, only one required a licensed mentor who was not currently working with the student teacher, either as licensed co-teacher. Training of the mentor took place through email interactions with the coordinator of early childhood programs and through interactions with the face to face faculty supervisors. Additionally, the mentors were required to read the student teaching handbook, which included a detailed section about their role and the college/AOE requirements. The coordinator of ECE at LSC was also available via phone and email for any questions/concerns that might have arisen.

Student teaching handbook <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JN-l2dbhIDhKzrAZJ6pEx-JXS2AdTIP-/view?usp=sharing>

2. Though creating a pathway for practicing early childhood educators through online education is admirable, the supervision of student teaching might be hard to accomplish with candidates being spread out across the state. Though videos are good, it is considered best practice to have some degree of face-to-face supervision during student teaching. LSC will need to find a creative way to provide face to face supervision for student teachers who are spread far and wide.

2. LSC was able to find very qualified adjunct professors to act as college student teaching supervisors for the student teachers throughout the state. Student teaching supervision was completely a face to face experience. Ten adjuncts applied for the position and the top three candidates were chosen to supervise the student teachers, broken out by county of residence. These adjuncts were trained in LSC and AOE policies and requirements.

1. Student teaching handbook <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JN-l2dbhIDhKzrAZJ6pEx-JXS2AdTIP-/view?usp=sharing>

Resumes of hired adjuncts <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1z-P8b-Cgtlol4QubQROEjMh30cXs5ho?usp=sharing>

[LSC ECE 2016 New Program Report](#)

(This report is just provided as evidence that there were no stipulations and only the two concerns in the 2016 Report).