



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

MEMORANDUM

TO: Weekly Field Memo Recipients

FROM: Janet Steward, Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators, Chair

RE: Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators 2008-2010 Annual Report

DATE: January 12, 2011

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators is pleased to share our 2008-2010 annual report documenting the work completed by this Board in carrying out our mission of *Ensuring a Caring, Competent, Highly Effective Educator in Every Vermont Classroom to Improve Student Learning*. These accomplishments address the goals of our Action Plan, developed in 2007 when the Vermont Legislature approved Act 214 creating a thirteen member, teacher majority board with the authority and obligation to regulate its own profession. The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) holds monthly meetings; our meeting dates, agendas and minutes are posted on the Vermont DOE website.

VSBE Mission Statement: Ensuring a Caring, Competent, Highly Effective Educator in Every Vermont Classroom to Improve Student Learning.

VSBE Annual Report
2008-2010

Goal 1: Ensure that all routes to initial licensure and additional endorsements prepare teachers and administrators who demonstrate effectiveness in improving student learning.

- Five full program ROPA reviews have been conducted along with reviews for three new programs and four alternate routes to licensure programs.
- Both a two-year report template and an online ROPA evaluation system have been adopted to promote greater efficiency and effectiveness of the ROPA process.
- The NASDTEC Agreement was updated for teachers and administrators and additional states for routes to licensure for support areas (SLP, counseling, etc.) have been recommended for the next agreement.
- Institutions continue to be provided technical assistance prior to a ROPA review and following a visit as they respond to a Review Team's concerns.

Goal 2: Develop a continuum of career-long educator development that is efficient, innovative, and responsive to the needs of Vermont's students and educators, and sustain, through high quality mentoring and induction, professional development, evaluation, and relicensure processes, a community of educators who are knowledgeable, reflective, life-long learners.

- Policy H4 on Local and Regional Standards Boards (L/RSB) Consistency was adopted to facilitate greater effectiveness by supporting more consistency across Boards and in the relicensure process. This policy focuses on Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDPs), portfolios, forms, and trainings.
- L/RSB Plans of Operation were reviewed for the purpose of improvement of operation and to assure alignment with regulations.
- Bi-annual newsletters are distributed to all L/RSB Chairs and Co Chairs to inform Boards of updates, licensing issues, and to offer guidance on frequently asked questions. The newsletter is also posted on the web.
- The VSBE reviewed a draft of a document outlining the foundations to promote a career continuum for Vermont Educators and what requirements would be necessary to accomplish these proposed steps. This work is ongoing and will also be analyzed in relation to the finalized InTASC *Model Core Teaching Standards*.
- Administrator endorsements and standards are in the process of being redesigned.

Goal 3: Every professional position in a Vermont public school is staffed by a properly credentialed educator who exemplifies behavior that maintains the dignity and integrity of the profession.

- A number of new Praxis tests were reviewed or adopted as part of the Board's efforts to assure the validity and reliability of new and existing teacher and administrator assessments. These include:

- New Praxis tests requirements for English as a Second Language and Reading/English Language Arts Specialist.
- Regenerated tests for World Languages (Spanish, French, and German).
- A new social studies test
- Revisions to the Regulations Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals were implemented on 4/15/09.
- The Code of Professional Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct for Vermont Educators was adopted in 2009 and are included in section 5500.

Goal 4: Provide leadership to improve education, increase professionalism, and raise the recognition of education as a profession.

- A VSBPE information pamphlet was created to promote awareness for the Code of Professional Ethics. The pamphlet is inserted with all Vermont licenses.
- As part of its efforts to publicize the role of the VSBPE in promoting educator quality and increase outreach to the education community, the Educator Quality division created the Vermont Educator Preparation Blog which replaced the ROPA newsletter. L/RSB newsletters continue to be distributed to field.
- As part of its efforts to monitor federal and state requirements, the VSBPE reviewed the new InTASC Model Core Teach Standards, reviewed Vermont's early draft proposals for Race to the Top prior to our withdrawal from the competition, and includes a VSBPE member in the VT DOE's committee responsible for planning the implementation of the Common Core standards.
- A number of policies have been revised or adopted to promote educator quality and support the Board's mission. These include:
 - C1: VSBPE Meetings
 - C2: VSBPE Committees
 - C3: Proposals to the VSBPE
 - C4: Relationship to the State Board of Education
 - D2: Approval of Plans of Operation for Local and Regional Standards Boards
 - F2: Recency of Study
 - H4: Policy on Improving Consistency for Educator Relicensure
 - N1: Policy on Low Performing Programs
 - N4: Policy on the Approval of Alternate Route Programs
 - N5: Selection of Members of Visiting Teams for Teacher Preparation Program Approval Visits
 - N8: Interpretation of the Major in Liberal Arts or Sciences
 - N11: Policy on Student Teaching and Practicum Requirements Multiple Initial Endorsements
 - N12: Policy on Student Teaching and Practicum Requirements Multi-Level Single Endorsement
 - N13: Policy for Requests for Approval of New Programs
 - N14: Policy on Academic Competence for Student Teaching
 - N15: Policy on Program Approval for Various Educator Preparation Delivery Models and Recommendations for Licensure or Additional Endorsements
 - N16: Policy on Recommending Foreign Language Candidates in Alternate, Undergraduate, Post-Baccalaureate, and Graduate Degree Foreign Language Programs