**VSBPE**

**Date: Oct. 14, 2021**

**Item:** **Questions Re: Student Teaching 2021-2022**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE make any allowances for flexibility to the student teaching requirements due to Covid during the 2021-2022 academic year?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBPE discuss the options below to provide guidance to Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) who have student teachers in the field.**

**BACKGROUND:** For spring of 2020, the Board allowed programs to recommend their candidates who may not have been able to complete the full 13 weeks of student teaching due to Covid, with the following stipulations:

1. At least half of the required 13 weeks have been completed

2. The mentor/cooperating teacher writes a letter of recommendation attesting that the student has demonstrated the appropriate trajectory of a typically successful student teacher.

3. The university supervisor writes a letter of recommendation attesting that the student has demonstrated the appropriate trajectory of a typically successful student teacher.

For AY 2020-2021, the Board directed approved programs to submit a temporary substantive change request that would outline how they would handle the potential issues that could arise due to Covid. The Office reviewed each of the plans and the Board voted to accept them.

**OPTIONS for AY 2021-2022:**

1. Allow for the same flexibility that EPPs had in spring of 2020, as detailed above.
2. Extend the approval of the substantive change requests from AY 2020-2021.
3. Decide upon a different plan for AY 2021-2022.
4. Do not offer flexibility for AY 2021-2022.
5. Direct EPPs to develop policies to address extended absences from student teaching due to illness or injury.