**VSBPE**

**Date: 12 January 2022**

**Item:** **Acceptance of New York licensure and education preparation recommendations for Vermont Licensure**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE amend their rules to issue educators with a valid professional New York educator license a comparable Vermont license and issue a Vermont license to candidates with a recommendation from an approved New York Educator Preparation Program?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the VSBPE amend their rules to issue educators with a valid professional New York state educator license a comparable Vermont license and issue a Vermont license to candidates with a recommendation from an approved New York state Educator Preparation Program.

**BACKGROUND:** The VSPBE has recognized professional licenses from US states that have signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement for the past seven years. New York is one of three state that has not signed this agreement; therefore, educators coming to Vermont from New York have to go through Transcript Review to get a license. Securing transcripts can be challenging, particular for experienced educators who have been out of school for many years.

**RATIONALE:** The Office feels that the standards required of New York teachers are commensurate with other states in the New England/Northeast region. Not recognizing the licensure and preparation of these educators places unreasonable burden on the educators and hinders Vermont schools’ ability to meet their staffing needs.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Proposed amended rules

**Proposed Rule changes:**

5246.2 A candidate who is currently licensed in a state participating in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement (Rule 5320) or the State of New York.

5321 An applicant who is not licensed and has successfully completed an Educator preparation program approved by a nationally recognized accrediting body in a state which has signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement or in the State of New York will be considered for licensure as if they had completed an approved Educator preparation program in Vermont. Applicants will be subject to the same requirements for initial licensees awarded in Vermont including testing, criminal background checks, and affirmations. The applicant shall meet requirements for updated knowledge and skills when there is a time lapse of ten (10) or more years between the time of recommendation for licensure and application for licensure.

5322 An applicant who is not licensed and has successfully completed an Educator preparation program approved by a nationally recognized accrediting body in a state which has neither signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement nor in the State of New York may apply for licensure though transcript review. An applicant who meets the requirements specified and Jurisdiction Specific Requirements as defined and specified in these rules shall be issued a comparable license and/or endorsement(s) according to the provisions of these rules. The applicant shall meet requirements for updated knowledge and skills when there is a time lapse of ten (10) or more years between the time of recommendation for licensure and application for licensure.

5323 An applicant for licensure or an endorsement in Vermont who holds a professional license in another state which has signed the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement or in the State of New York, holds the degree required for the endorsement, and meets the specified Jurisdiction Specific Requirements shall be issued a Level I Professional Educator License with a comparable endorsement(s). Educators already holding a Vermont Professional Educator License will have the endorsement added to a Level I Professional Educator License regardless of the license held.

5324 The Standards Board or Office will evaluate an applicant who comes from a state that neither participates in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement nor in the State of New York or is applying for an endorsement not covered by the Agreement through Transcript Review. Only coursework which appears for credit on an official transcript and which the applicant received a grade of “B” or better may be counted toward the requirements for initial licensure through transcript review. The applicant shall meet requirements for updated knowledge and skills as established by Standards Board policy.

5326 A Vermont license and endorsement(s) issued through the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement or from the State of New York shall be subject to renewal provisions of Section 5430 of these rules.

5412 An applicant applying for initial licensure who has satisfactorily met all requirements in Sections 5230 through 5246 through one of the processes in Section 5300 or met the requirements for an additional endorsement in Section 5443 of these rules shall be granted a Level I Professional Educator License. An applicant with a recommendation from an accredited Educator preparation program outside of Vermont in a state that is a signatory to the NASDTEC interstate agreement or the State of New York shall be granted a Level I License with a comparable endorsement.