**VSBPE**

**Date: 9 March 2022**

**Item:** **Basic Competencies from Multiple Sources**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE allow educators to use multiple sources (“mix and match”) to demonstrate competency with required basic skills?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the VSBPE allow educators to use multiple sources (“mix and match”) to demonstrate competency with required basic skills

**BACKGROUND:** By practice, the office requires that demonstration of basic competencies for initial licensure come from the same source. For example, an educator cannot use a passing score from the math section of the SAT along with a passing score from the reading section of the Praxis Core. This is an office practice that lives neither in rule nor policy. This board action serves as a clarification of practice moving forward.

**RATIONALE:** *De facto*, the office already accepts demonstration of basic skills from multiple sources (“mix and match”), as this practice is common in other states. Therefore, educators applying for licensure through reciprocity may be demonstrating competency with basic skills by mixing and matching.

Initially, the office thought that it would be too logistically difficult to track a mix and match approach. Upon further review, they determined that, while a bit of additional work, it could be enacted with limited difficulty.

Allowing mixing and matching would reduce the financial burden on educators applying for initial licensure. For example, an applicant who has achieved a passing score on the SAT math would only have to register for the reading subsection of the Praxis Core, should they opt for demonstrating their competency by testing.