

VSBE

Date: Aug. 13, 2019

Item: TAP Student Teacher Observation Proposal

ITEM: Shall the VSBE accept TAP's request for approval to pilot a new student teacher observation protocol?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBE considers TAP's request for approval to pilot a new student teacher observation protocol.

BACKGROUND:

TAP submitted their proposal to the AOE on June 26th, 2019.

RATIONALE:

Rule 5924.4 (b) states that "the teacher preparation program's supervisors shall observe and advise the student teacher at least once every ten (10) teaching days." TAP is proposing to observe the candidates electronically versus in-person. They have submitted a well-reasoned plan for this pilot project, including assessment of its efficacy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT: TAP's letter and proposal.



CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

Teacher Apprenticeship Program

163 South Willard St
P.O. Box 670
Burlington, Vermont
05402-0670
www.tapvt.org
802-651-5844

June 19, 2019

Dear Members of the Program Approval Committee:

Each year TAP produces between 35-50 teachers who typically remain in Vermont to teach. Frequently, these are educators who are working under a provisional license at a school in a community where the educator is committed to staying to teach for their whole career. These communities are often in the more rural areas of our state making it difficult for the educator to access a teacher preparation program. TAP is driven to support both rural supervisory unions in “growing their own teachers” and provisionally licensed teachers in moving to a professional teaching license.

We are writing to request approval to conduct a pilot program in the coming year in relation to Rule 5924.4 (b): *The teacher preparation program’s supervisors shall observe and advise the student teacher at least once every ten (10) teaching days.* We are committed to supervising our student teachers appropriately and in compliance with Rule 5924.4. In the coming year, however, we would like to pilot a program, in collaboration with mentors and building principals, where we conduct the required number of observations in-person and remotely, using technology.

We believe this pilot will enable us to determine if a hybrid model of observations, using live video technology, would allow us to maintain the high-quality of our current observations. Were such an option available in the future, we believe it would enable us to serve more educators and schools across the state, particularly in those supervisory unions with a higher number of provisionally licensed educators.

Advances in technology coupled with our commitment to a hybrid approach where we would still make in-person observations leads us to think that this is a model that may be appropriate in a limited number of cases. We anticipate only applying this hybrid model with the approval of the mentor teacher and principal and only as appropriate for the experience and skill level of the educator.

While in the past, we have served candidates everywhere from Brattleboro to Highgate, our capacity does limit our ability to accept a candidate who applies outside of a particular geographic region. The recent closure of three educator preparation programs also means that educators’ options have grown more limited in the state. It is our hope that a hybrid observation model would allow us to better meet the needs of Vermont’s schools and educators while maintaining the strength of the TAP program.

Thank you for considering this request. We offer a summary of the pilot proposal on the attached page and would welcome the opportunity to meet with the VSBPE to answer questions and consider the value of such a program.

Sincerely,

Ellen Emery
TAP Director, Champlain College
802-651-5844



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Hybrid Observation Pilot Proposal

Purpose of Pilot: To consider whether a hybrid model of in-person and remote live observations would allow us to determine if candidates for licensure are on track for meeting the Core Teaching Standards during their student teaching experience with the goal of better serving educators and hard-to-staff schools.

Proposed Pilot Plan:

- Attain permission for hybrid observation from student teacher, mentor, and administrator.
- TAP faculty conduct Observation #1 and/or #2 with an on-site supervisor *and* remote observer simultaneously. The two observing supervisors will compare their observation notes and reflect on the quality of the remote observation together.
- TAP faculty conduct Observation #3 using technology. This may include [Google Meet](#), Facetime, [Swivl](#), or other video technology.
- Mentor teacher continues to conduct regular observations on site.
- TAP faculty complete the Triad Mid-Term Assessment with student teacher, mentor, and supervisor.
- TAP faculty conduct Observation #4 or #5 using technology or in-person depending on the results of observation #3 and the needs of the candidate.
- Mentor teacher continues to conduct observations on site.
- TAP faculty conduct Observation #6 in person.

Assessment (conducted by TAP faculty):

- Collect survey data from mentor and student teachers participating in the pilot.
- Compare simultaneous observation notes.
- Compare in-person observations and remote observer observations.
- Complete pilot summary for VSBPE with results and observation reports as evidence.