

VSBPE

Date: March 12, 2019

Item: ROPA Policy Clarification (Policies N11 and N12)- Dividing Student Teaching

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE clarify the policy on dividing student teaching as mentioned in Policies N11 and N12?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators clarify the policy on dividing student teaching as mentioned in Policies N11 and N12.

BACKGROUND: Recently, a licensure officer from an approved educator preparation program asked if it was acceptable for one of their candidates to complete their student teaching at a different school than the one in which they were currently placed. In reviewing the Rules and Policies to answer the question, we found an inconsistency. There is nothing in the Rules that addresses the situation.

Policy N11, Policy on Student Teaching and Practicum Requirements for Multiple Initial Endorsements, states:

...Approved programs that determine it is appropriate to divide the student teaching experience among different placements must submit information regarding the institution's rationale with supporting documentation to the VSBPE for consideration. Documentation should detail how candidates will be meeting the intention of the student teaching requirement through the split placements.

Documentation of the request, a copy of the institution's written policy on divided student teaching placements, and the Board's approval will be placed on file at the Agency of Education. Such placements and the supporting documentation will be reviewed thereafter as part of the full-program ROPA review process.

Policy N12, Policy on Student Teaching and Practicum Requirements for Multi-Level Single Endorsement, states:

Approved programs that determine it is appropriate to divide the student teaching experience among different placements must have a written policy regarding the institution's rationale with supporting documentation. Documentation should detail how candidates will meet the intention of the student teaching requirement through the split placements. Such placements and the supporting documentation will be reviewed as part of the full-program ROPA review process.

The questions for the Board are:

Do approved EPPs who would like to allow a candidate to split their student teaching have to submit information regarding the institution's rationale with supporting documentation to the VSBPE for consideration, as stated in Policy N11 (but not in N12)?

Can an EPP allow a candidate to split their student teaching if the rationale does not fall under one of the two policies shown above? If so, should there be a separate policy on dividing the student teaching experience to clarify what is needed in any case where that occurs?