

VSBPE

Date: Feb. 08, 2024

Item: Revision to Policy N11

ITEM: Shall the VSBPE approve of the revision to Policy N11 to expand the flexibility of student teaching placements to meet the needs of the field, as detailed below?

AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the VSBPE approve the revision to Policy N11 to expand the flexibility of student teaching placements to meet the needs of the field, as detailed below.

BACKGROUND:

The Board approved the first reading of the revision to Policy N11 on Nov. 29, 2023.

At a meeting with an approved EPP, it was discussed that some elementary schools are changing the format to have more than one teacher even at the primary level; for example, one teacher for math and science and another for English and social studies. The student teacher would still follow the same class of children throughout the day, but could have more than one cooperating teacher. Policy N11 currently allows for this flexibility at the secondary level only. We are suggesting revising the policy as shown below to allow for any approved program to have this flexibility, as long as the student teachers spend their full day with the same group of students, as indicated in the policy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

Revised Policy N11 with track changes:

POLICY N11

Policy on Splitting the Student Teaching Placement

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators believes that a supervised, concentrated student teaching experience in an appropriate setting is a necessary component in the development of competent beginning educators. Rules Governing the Licensure of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals define student teaching as "a minimum of thirteen (13) consecutive weeks of supervised, concentrated field experience required for initial licensure, including an internship, or other concentrated field experience however named, in which the

student shall gradually assume the full professional roles and responsibilities of the initial endorsement area sought (section 5150)."

It is generally understood and common practice that the full student teaching internship is ideally with the same cooperating teacher for the thirteen weeks. However, there are situations in which this may not be considered best practice, or even possible.

From time to time, secondary candidates may need to be placed in more than one classroom setting to experience a full range of 7-12th grade students, different content areas within a licensure area (i.e., geometry and algebra, U.S. history and government, etc.), and a range of students. Such placements are permissible as long as candidates complete the required thirteen weeks of teaching with ~~a the same~~ group or groups of students from the inception of their student teaching. That is, candidates may divide their day between different cooperating teachers. The thirteen-week requirement cannot be met by placing student teachers in one classroom for six weeks and then transitioning them to a second setting.

~~This flexibility may also be extended to middle and elementary student teaching placements. For a middle grades placement, the student teacher would stay with the content-area teacher throughout the day. In an elementary school where multiple teachers specialize in different content areas, it is possible to have multiple cooperating teachers as long as the student teacher spends the full thirteen weeks with the same cohort of students.~~

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 should be submitted as part of the full-program ROPA review process.

Programs must document that their candidates seeking multiple endorsements or a multi-level endorsement are meeting all the knowledge and performance standards and additional requirements, if any, for the licensure recommendation. This may mean that one or more practica are required in addition to student teaching.

Adopted: 3/15/05; Revised: 2/14/08, 3/30/18, 4/8/19

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