

Education Quality Team
Staff Report for April 13, 2021

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Director

The Education Quality Division has been remarkably steady over the course of the last month. That does not mean there hasn't been much to do. As you will see, the licensing team has been extremely busy processing applications, seeing a substantial jump in applications over the same period as last year. The team has been steadily working through the demand. They will receive reinforcements on Monday, as Walter Earle returns for his annual part-time stint in support of the team.

Per the board's guidance, Ellen Cairns investigated shortages in identifying licensed Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education teachers to serve as cooperating teachers. The Castleton area has struggled to find qualified individuals to serve in that capacity for their students. Based on Ellen's survey of Educator Preparation Programs, the challenge appears to be more regional than statewide.

Most candidates adding an endorsement through Transcript Review are required to pass the appropriate Praxis II test; however, educators who hold an endorsement in 7-12 math, social studies, science, or English Language Arts and add the corresponding Middle Grades endorsement do not. For the middle grades endorsement, either the middle grades or secondary Praxis II is accepted. We encountered a handful of instances recently of veteran educators who received the 7-12 endorsement before the Praxis II was required seeking the corresponding middle grades endorsement. When the Praxis II became required, educators already holding the endorsement were held harmless for the new requirement. The office reads of the intent of the rule for requiring the Praxis II for the middle grades endorsement as an assurance of basic subject area knowledge. We felt their 20+ years of teaching experience at the 7-12 level was sufficient assurance and waived the requirement.

Peer Review has continued to be extremely busy, though Andrew Prowten is keeping pace. Blanket extensions for submitting portfolios due to COVID-related challenges will be ending soon, as the need to allow them has subsided.

From the Education Quality Division: Ron Ryan, Education Programs Manager

April 2021 Update:

During the winter months, Deb has been meeting with individual L/RSBs and will continue to do so over the next few months. Grant Awards for the 2021-2022 are contingent upon at least one virtual Board check-in and completing an Annual Report for the year. Deb expects to forward the Annual Reports to Boards in the next few weeks and Grant Applications for L/RSBs

that have completed both requirements. Newsletters continue to be forwarded to Boards along with information regarding the Rule Revision schedule and public comment period.

Renewal volume has increased in the last few weeks due to the April 1st deadline date for guaranteed renewal by July 1, 2021 if all procedures are followed. Deb continues to address e-mails from L/RSBs and educators regarding licensing concerns and ALiS issues.

2021 Renewal Chart

Renewals 2021 - 5072

Renewals 2020 - 5282

Month	Received 2020	Received 2021	Paid/Approved 2020	Paid/Approved 2021
July – Oct 15	228		701	
June	345		312	
May	407		307	
April	774		767	
March	667	1158	532	1007
February	620	676	542	514
January	593	266	320	99

Current Work Queue per application type as of 4-6-2021: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	177
Reinstatement	17
Renewal	612
Retired	13
Temporary	20
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	1
Transcript Review – Initial	51
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	52
Peer Review - Initial	83
Peer Review – Add endorsement	22