

Education Quality Team

Staff Report for 5 August 2021

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Director

It has been an exceedingly busy summer, though we successfully witnessed an empty renewal queue as of Thursday, 29 July! Ron provides a full accounting of licenses issued below. In short, however, the licensing team plugged away at a huge number of renewal applications, as this was the final year of five- and seven-year renewals coming due simultaneously.

Through at least the end of August, the Education Quality Division will continue to work largely remotely. We will have more clarity in the middle of August regarding what long term work will look like for the division. We are expecting most staff to continue to work largely remotely, with an occasional presence in the National Life building.

Terry Reilly left his position as the Preservice Education Quality Coordinator in late June. We wish him well in his next endeavors. We are nearly ready to post the position after taking a couple of weeks to restructure it slightly. Of note, the position will no longer include any supervision, but will involve the coordination of high-leverage projects across the division.

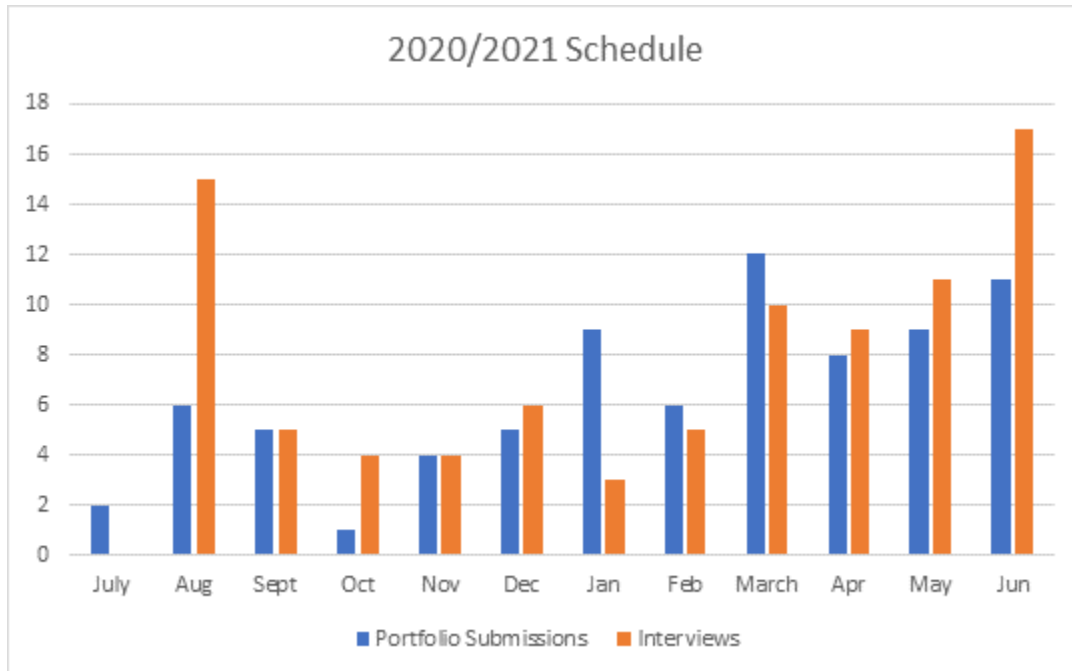
Peer Review had an extremely busy spring and early summer, averaging more than an interview every other day (see chart below). We will learn from this year to encourage more candidates to complete interviews earlier in the winter. In total, 77 portfolios were submitted during the 2020/21 year and 89 interviews conducted. 45 (51%) of those interviews took place between March 1st and June 30th. Of those interviewed in 2021, 71% received a recommendation for licensure and 29% submitted additional evidence or were placed on a Plan of Action. Compared to previous years, the number of completers returns to the 4-year average (after a major dip in spring 2020). Of those interviewed, 26 were for Early Childhood Education, 8 Special Education, 8 Middle Grades, and 5 were Physical Education. Physical Education is an endorsement we are keeping a close watch on, as there has been a recent influx of applicants in PR, many of whom are on Provisional Licenses.

Some raw numbers:

- FY 2021 – 89 Interviews, about 50% (+1) March-June
- 26 (29%) placed on plan, 63 (71%) received recommendation at time of interview
- 25 (28%) adding endorsement, 64 (72%) initial license
 - 26 ECE
 - 8 Special Ed
 - 8 MG All*
 - 5 PE

Since April 2017 (includes some, but not all, closed and denied applications):

- At least 565 total applicants (114 have been closed, many more likely will be)
 - 116 ECE
 - 67 Elementary Education
 - 44 Special Education
 - 36 MG (mostly Math and Science)
 - 35 Science



ROPA has continued to conduct interviews, including one for Southern New Hampshire University’s CTE preparation program. Additionally, ROPA is currently looking for a Standards Board member to join their scheduled review of the Higher Education Collaborative scheduled for 14-15 December.

Transcript Review received 336 applications between January and June of 2021, granting 257 endorsements.

We received an inquiry from an educator holding an Educational Speech and Language Pathologist endorsement who was looking to add our new Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement. The Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement can only be granted to educators who hold a select group of endorsements, including elementary education, middle and secondary English language arts, and special education. At the time that the Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement was initially adopted, the Educational Speech and Language Pathologist endorsement was not considered a “teaching” endorsement, so was not named as a

qualifying endorsement for the Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement. As it now is considered a “teaching” endorsement, we will be allowing educators holding that endorsement to pursue the Specialized Literacy Professional endorsement. This will ultimately be rectified in the next rule revision.

The office granted a waiver from the Praxis Core to an educator in the Missisquoi Valley School District. The educator qualified for a waiver under Rule 5247.

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

The Summer has been busy with the closing of renewals and the submission of temporary licenses by Superintendents. Positions are being advertised and districts are trying to fill vacancies seeking licensed applicants. If they are not able to fill positions with licensed applicants, they can submit for temporary licenses, allowing them to fill positions for one or two years. Special Education Teacher vacancies have been difficult to fill and are concerning for a number of districts.

L/RSBs: D. Giles continues to process the Retired ED and Renewal Applications in her queue. All with the exception of one are waiting for a completed Criminal Record Check. July reminders were sent to L/RSBs who had yet to submit an Annual Report and/or Grant Application.

38 Grant Applications/Agreement received have been completed and forwarded to the AOE Finance Office. All Grant Agreements have been e-mailed to SU/SD Business Managers for e-signatures by the AOE Finance Office. To date, 28/38 have been e-signed and returned to the AOE. L/RSBs have been kept informed of the progress of their specific Grant Agreement. The contact information list for the 2021-2022 L/RSB Chairs is in the process of being updated and will appear on the AOE website when completed. This list will also appear in the VPA/VSA ED Directory. L/RSB Board members will also need to be updated in ALiS for the upcoming school year. In July, Deb met with the Battenkill Valley LSB Chairs and the Southwest Vermont LSB Chairs regarding the merger of the two SUs and the impact on the LSBs. Deb also continues to address questions and concerns from L/RSBs and educators regarding licensure.

2021 Renewal Chart:

Renewals 2021 - 5072

Renewals 2020 – 5282

Month	Received 2020	Received 2021	Paid/Approved 2020	Paid/Approved 2021
July – Oct 15th	228	6*	701	131*
June	345	276	312	489
May	407	472	307	494
April	774	672	767	782
March	667	1158	532	1007
February	620	676	542	514
January	593	266	320	99
Total	3,634	3,526	3,481	3,516

* = Month of July only

Current Work Queue per application type as of 7-30-2021: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	260
Reinstatement	33
Renewal	90
Retired	3
Temporary	91
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	12
Transcript Review – Initial	69
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	59
Peer Review - Initial	77
Peer Review – Add endorsement	26