

Education Quality Team

Staff Report for May 20, 2021

From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Director

We have had a busy, though successful, licensing month. Compared to 2020, April is a little less busy, a welcome respite after an unprecedented March. We are also glad to have Walter Earle back on a part-time basis to assume a good bit of the renewal burden.

In previous springs, the licensing team hosted a series of day long training sessions addressing all manner of licensing issues. Due to pandemic restrictions, we have moved these sessions on-line for 2021, with four, hourlong sessions, each with a different focus. Last Wednesday, 12 May, we held our first, focusing on renewals, retired and initial licensure. We will be hosting the additional sessions each of the next three Wednesdays.

- 19 May—TR/PR/Temps (with more ALiS tour)
- 26 May—CRC and Fingerprinting
- 2 June—R/LSBs/Rule Changes/Waivers

Terry Reilly has completed a review of trends in licensure and completer demographics based on Title II reports submitted by all EPPs. This was sent to board members as an email attachment. Additionally, Terry has been working to restart the Blind/Visually Impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing endorsement revisions. The revision groups will be meeting soon to take the next steps in the process.

We have seen a surge in waiver requests this month, particularly for one-year provisional licenses for special educators. While we will discuss this in more detail during the meeting, addressing educator shortages, particularly in special education is an increasingly pressing priority.

There are three additional office decisions that the board should be aware of.

First, UVM approached ROPA to see if UVM would be allowed to accept CLEP scores in lieu of credits for their graduate students seeking an initial endorsement, with the understanding that CLEP scores may not be transcribed for graduate study. ROPA determined that this was permissible, unless the board disagreed, as it was philosophically consistent with practice for undergraduate students. In practice, this means that a post-baccalaureate student seeking, say, a secondary social studies endorsement could use a passing score on the economics CLEP in lieu of taking an economics course, just as is permitted for their undergraduate students. As these scores cannot be transcribed, UVM will be developing a reporting system to ensure that any passing CLEP scores data is shared with the AOE upon educator licensure application.

Second, an educator working toward a Master's degree in education in Canada reached out to the AOE for a clarification on licensing rule 5231 requiring a baccalaureate degree. The educator in question was granted admission to the Master's program with completion of a Quebecois DEC degree. While similar to a Bachelor's degree, it is not identical. Because the educator was admitted to a Master's program with the DEC, we agreed that the licensing team would consider the DEC and Master's in conjunction as meeting the baccalaureate requirement. The educator would still need to submit transcripts through the foreign transcription services.

Finally, the office approved a “second initial” license for an educator returning to teach in Vermont. She previously held a science endorsement that expired in 2005. She was issued a K-21 special education endorsement upon application. She applied through reciprocity from Colorado. This will become standard practice with the approval of the proposed rule changes.

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

April was another busy month for renewals, even with two weeks designated for spring break.

Deb continues to meet with individual L/RSBs remotely and Boards are still scheduling meetings.

Reminders regarding scheduling a meeting have been sent to Boards.

Annual Reports will be going out to Boards in May and Grant Applications will follow when the 2021-2022 budget is approved by the State Legislature.

Regional trainings on various licensing areas with SU/SD Superintendents and their designees are planned for May and early June. These will be one-hour sessions and done on Teams.

E-mail volume has been very high during this renewal season and Deb continues to answer questions and help resolve issues with Boards and individual educators.

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	672	767	782
March	667	1158	532	1007
February	620	676	542	514
January	593	266	320	99

Current Work Queue per application type as of 5-12-2021: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

Application Type	Total
Initial	206
Reinstatement	22
Renewal	488
Retired	14
Temporary	11
1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance	5
Transcript Review – Initial	70
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	64
Peer Review - Initial	87
Peer Review – Add endorsement	25