

## **VSBE**

**Date: May 20, 2021**

**Item: UVM Request for Approval of Out-of-State/Distance Internships**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBE approve UVM's request for approval of student teaching internships that are out-of-state or a distant location within Vermont that would require remote supervision?

### **AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBE grant this approval to UVM for a period of two years, until June 2023. UVM will report back to the Board with evidence of how the pilot project worked prior to placing students in remote internship assignments in the fall of 2023. This evidence should include survey data from student teachers, supervisors, cooperating teachers, and principals who supervise graduates from the first cohort.**

**BACKGROUND:** There is some precedence for this request: Goddard has approval for their candidates to complete their student teaching in their home states, and the Board granted approval to TAP for a pilot program in 2019. There is a difference in that TAP was placing candidates farther afield in Vermont, not out-of-state. UVM's request is two-fold: one is a waiver for the (questionable) requirement of mentor teachers to be licensed in Vermont (see below), and the second is to conduct required observations remotely instead of in-person, **and** to have the mentor teacher conduct at least some of the observations. This second part could possibly require a waiver of Rule 5924.4 (a), which states that "supervision shall be provided by qualified faculty from the teacher preparation program's staff including adjunct faculty. An individual shall not serve simultaneously as the cooperating educator and as the supervisor from the institution's faculty" and 5924.4 (b): "the teacher preparation program's supervisors shall observe and advise the student teacher at least once every ten (10) teaching days." From the proposal, it is clear that student teachers will still have a UVM faculty supervisor, but that the supervisor may not conduct all of the required observations.

As to the requirement of the cooperating teacher being licensed in Vermont: that is not explicitly stated in Rule. 5924.3 (b) states that "the assignment shall be with a licensed educator in an appropriate setting as determined by the school district and educator preparation program." However, there is also Policy N10 to consider:

## **Policy on Student Teacher Placement with A Non-Vermont Licensed Cooperating Teacher**

In order to place student teachers with non-Vermont licensed cooperating teachers, educator preparation programs must have a written policy, approved by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE), for these placements. This policy will be reviewed as part of the ROPA process.

Each educator preparation program will submit policies and procedures ensuring the quality of these placements consistent with Rules Governing the Licensing of Educators and the Preparation of Educational Professionals including the Core Teaching and Leadership Standards for Vermont Educators as well as any additional requirements for the endorsement area(s).

Data concerning these placements will be maintained by each program and included in the Institutional Portfolio for review.

Alternate routes to licensure are also subject to this policy.

### **Relevant part of Rule 5924 in entirety:**

5924.2 The placement of student teachers is the responsibility of the teacher preparation program and shall meet the following requirements:

- a) a minimum of thirteen (13) consecutive weeks of supervised, concentrated field experience required for initial licensure (e.g., student teaching, internship, or other concentrated field experience however named) in which the candidate shall gradually assume the full professional roles and responsibilities of an educator in the initial endorsement area sought;
- b) the assignment shall be with a licensed educator in an appropriate setting as determined by the school district and educator preparation program.
- c) Exceptions shall be documented and submitted to the Standards Board or the Office for approval; a written agreement with the school in which the student teacher is placed outlines the responsibilities of each party;
- d) cooperating educators have been trained by the teacher preparation program in the strategies and methods being taught in the educator preparation program;

- e) the placement process and student teacher expectations are incorporated in a student teaching handbook.

5924.3 The supervision and evaluation of student teachers by the teacher preparation program's faculty shall meet the following requirements:

- a) supervision shall be provided by qualified faculty from the teacher preparation program's staff including adjunct faculty. An individual shall not serve simultaneously as the cooperating educator and the supervisor from the institution's faculty;
- b) the teacher preparation program's supervisors shall observe and advise the student teacher at least once every ten (10) teaching days;
- c) the teacher preparation programs supervisors shall not be assigned more student teachers than can be adequately supervised and supported;
- d) a specific student teaching evaluation process shall be detailed in the student teaching handbook, including collection of data on the candidate's performance, a process for feedback to the candidate, and use of the data to provide additional assistance.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

UVM's request document