**Education Quality Team**

***Staff Report for March 9, 2022***

***From the Education Quality Division: Patrick Halladay, Division Director***

Our division has continued to function more or less without interruption during the Omicron surge. We are in the midst of renewal season and have been able to keep pace with the applications rolling in. We have welcomed Walter Earle back into the fold. Walter joins the licensing team annually during renewal season. He has been back for a couple of weeks now.

We also welcome Ryan McCormick to the team. Ryan is our new Peer Review Coordinator, starting right after the January Board meeting. Previously, Ryan was a long-time social studies teacher at Harwood Union. He has quickly jumped into his new role. Peer Review is running smoothly, and he has already hosted his first Peer Review clinic. Ryan reports that Peer Review currently has 284 candidates actively enrolled, with 32 pending applicants under review. Since the start of 2022 there have been seven Interview Panels held and 12 upcoming Panels scheduled, with candidates’ continuing to submit Portfolios.

The office presented at the February State Board of Education (SBE) at their invitation. The SBE was interested in learning more about the nature of waiver requests to the Standards Board as well as general questions about persistent staffing challenges in schools. We reviewed waiver request trends over the past eight years. The number and nature of waiver requests grew extremely fast during the pandemic, especially for special education-related waiver requests.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School Year | Number | Approved | Denied | Other | Educator Request | Admin. Request |
| 2014/2015 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 2015/2016 | 17 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 13 |
| 2016/2017 | 21 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 14 |
| 2017/2018 | 37 | 31 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 28 |
| 2018/2019 | 22 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 22 |
| 2019/2020 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| 2020/2021 | 22 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 14 |
| 2021/2022\* | 30+ | 22 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 17 |

* Special Education: 34 (29 granted 2019 or later#)
* Praxis Core/Praxis II: 31
* Temporary Licenses (non-Special Education): 30
* Administrator: 14 (mostly 3-years licensed teaching experience requirement)
* Extended Substitute Teacher: 12
* Reciprocity: 6
* Driver’s Education: 5
* Foreign Credentials: 2
* Other: 30 (Most commonly credits required for major/minor or “B” average)

\*Through 12 January 2022

#Does not include office review of 34 Special Education waivers authorized by VSBPE for 2021/22

The office has created and advertised a summer internship for an interested college student. The main work will be to collect all required testing in all states, as well as looking at timelines for updates of teaching standards for appropriate national organizations. This would be extremely helpful work for which we lack the capacity to take on.

The office submitted a proposal for a presentation at the NASDTEC Annual Conference (June in Boston) on the work the Board has led regarding dismantling barriers that do not impact educator quality (Praxis Core, GPA, etc.). The proposal was accepted. We look forward to sharing our thinking and gathering feedback from peers.

Nominations for the 2023 Vermont Teacher of the Year are now open. If you have a colleague who deserves recognition, please consider completing the [nomination form](https://www.cognitoforms.com/VermontAgencyOfEducation/_2023VermontTeacherOfTheYearNominationForm). Additionally, share this with your various circles.

One educator was granted a waiver from the Math Praxis Core under the existing rule.

One educator on a temporary special education provisional waiver was given an additional month to complete the Special Education Praxis II due a death in his family.

Finally, per action taken by the Board at the January meeting:

* Seven educators used tests of basic skills approved by other states as demonstration of basic skills for an initial Vermont educator license.
* Eight educators used a valid NY educator license to apply for a Vermont license through reciprocity.
* One educator used a recommendation from an approved NY EPP for initial Vermont licensure.

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

**Early Childhood Education application numbers:**

Currently 28 applications have been filed.

2 applications have been closed.

**Special Education Waiver Provisional application numbers:**

Currently 35 applications have been filed.

2 applications have been closed.

**Local and Regional Standards Board Follow-up:**

Deb Giles emailed January (1/11/2022) and February (2/23/2022) L/RSB Newsletters to all Board Chairs with renewal information and other AOE updates.

As of February 28, 2022, 18 L/RSBs have held remote meetings/trainings with Deb. Another five LSBs have scheduled a meeting in March. Boards are continuing to request meeting dates. Grant allocations are contingent upon a meeting.

Deb also continues to address questions and concerns from L/RSBs and educators regarding relicensure and review all incoming renewal applications each day.

**Renewal Information 2022:**

Renewals 2022 – approximately 3700

Renewals 2021 – 5072

Renewals 2020 – 5282

| Month | Received  2020 | Received  2021 | Received  2022 | Paid/  Approved  2020 | Paid/  Approved  2021 | Paid/  Approved  2022 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| July – Oct 15th | 228 | 7\*  July |  | 701  July 2020 – March 2021 | 214\*  July – Nov 2021 |  |
| 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** | **226** | **320** | **99** | **110** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **3,634** | **approx. 3,527** |  | **3,481** | **approx.**  **3,599** |  |

Current Work Queue per application type as of 2-24-2022: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Application Type | Total |
| Initial | 97 |
| Reinstatement | 18 |
| Renewal | 203 |
| Retired | 3 |
| Temporary | 47 |
| 1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance | 0 |
| Transcript Review – Initial | 21 |
| Transcript Review – Add endorsement | 42 |
| Peer Review - Initial | 57 |
| Peer Review – Add endorsement | 24 |