**VSBPE**

**Date: 9 March 2022**

**Item:** **Extension of Temporary Waiver of Special Education Provisional Licensure to the 2022/23 Academic Year**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE reaffirm the Temporary Waiver of the Special Education Provisional License through the end of the 2022/23 academic year?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the VSBPE reaffirm the Temporary Waiver of the Special Education Provisional License through the end of the 2022/23 academic year.

**BACKGROUND:** In August 2021, the VSBPE issued a temporary waiver to allow the office to issue special education provisional licenses to candidates and SU/SDs that agree to specific conditions. This temporary waiver is scheduled to expire on 31 May 2022. The office is recommending that the temporary waiver be extended to 31 May 2023.

**RATIONALE:**  The need for special educators has not abated over the course of the past year. Vermont schools are still experiencing a shortage of educators in many endorsement areas, but none more profound than special education. This extension is not intended to become permanent, but rather to meet a need that persists. The terms of the extension remain the same as for the 2021/22 academic year and are presented below.

**Temporary Waiver for Special Education provisional licensing**

In response to staffing shortages exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, for the 2022/23 academic year, applicants for a Provisional License with a special education endorsement shall possess a baccalaureate degree and meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. possess any valid professional Educator license from Vermont or from another state;
2. possess any expired professional Vermont Educator license or any expired professional Educator license from another state, provided the license expired no fewer than two (2) years and no longer than ten (10) years ago;
3. have a major or the equivalent in the content area of the provisional endorsement sought;
4. have successfully completed Praxis II licensure content assessment for special education (Test number 5354) with a passing score of at least 145 within 120 days of issuance of a provisional license.
	1. Educators qualifying through criterion d) must have been admitted to an approved pathway to special education licensure.
	2. Educators qualifying through criterion d) must have a mentor participating in a Vermont-sponsored New Special Educator Mentoring Program.
	3. Educators qualifying through criterion d) must participate in the Vermont Agency of Education-identified learning modules for introduction to special education instruction within 30 days of issuance of a provisional license.

This waiver automatically expires on 31 May 2023 unless reaffirmed by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators on or before the date of expiration.