**VSBPE**

**Date: Jan. 12, 2022**

**Item:** **Vermont Higher Education Collaborative Approval to Recommend for Initial Licensure**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE accept the recommendation of the ROPA review team and approve of Vermont Higher Education Collaborative’s Program to recommend candidates for initial licensure in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, and Special Education at the postbac level?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBPE accept the recommendation of the ROPA review team and approve of Vermont Higher Education Collaborative’s Program to recommend candidates for initial licensure in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, and Special Education at the postbac level.**

**BACKGROUND:**

On behalf of the VSBPE, a ROPA team reviewed the Institutional Portfolio and conducted interviews during a virtual ROPA visit on Dec. 14-15. The ROPA Report is not yet completed, but the team is recommending conditional approval for two years, which is the best a new program can earn.

Normally, the Board would receive the finalized ROPA report prior to voting on program approval, but VT-HEC has requested that the Board vote to approve the recommendation of the team at this meeting, so that they can begin to advertise the program now, rather than having to wait until March. The full report will be available to the Board at the March meeting.

**RATIONALE:**

The recommendation of the team is complete, even if the full report is not.