**VSBPE**

**Date: 12 January 2022**

**Item:** **Alternatives to demonstrating academic competence**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE create a policy to allow educators who do not meet the 3.0 GPA as required by rule to demonstrate academic competency by an alternative manner?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the VSBPE approve Policy G5, Alternative Demonstration of Academic Competence, to allow educators who do not meet the 3.0 GPA as required by rule to demonstrate academic competency by an alternative manner.

**BACKGROUND:** VSBPE rules state that an educator seeking initial licensure or adding an endorsement have both an overall 3.0 GPA and a 3.0 GPA in their endorsement area. This policy would allow educators who do not have a 3.0 GPA to demonstrate their academic competence by alternative means.

**RATIONALE:** While this policy does not remove the 3.0 GPA requirement, it allows for demonstration of academic competence by alternative means. Periodically, otherwise qualified educators are unable to apply for licensure. At times, these candidates had extenuating circumstances that impacted their GPA or completed their coursework many years ago. This policy would provide a potential avenue for these educators to apply for licensure.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Proposed Policy G5

**POLICY G5**

**Alternative Demonstration of Academic Competence**

If an educator does not meet the 3.0 overall GPA as required by rule, s/he can demonstrate overall academic competence by one of the alternative manners below:

* Completion of postbaccalaureate degree
* GPA of 3.25 or better for junior and senior years or last 60 hours of baccalaureate program
* GPA of 3.25 or better in relevant field of major studies
* Attestation of academic competence by recommending Education Preparation Program

If an educator does not meet the 3.0 GPA in the field of major studies as required by rule, s/he can demonstrate competence in the field of major studies by one of the alternative manners below:

* Where applicable, a Praxis II passing score 10% higher than the defined cut score
* Completion of postbaccalaureate degree in a relevant endorsement area
* Attestation of academic competence by recommending Education Preparation Program

Adopted: