**Education Quality Team**

***November 2021 Staff Report***

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

We are happy to announce that Andrew Prowten has been named the new Preservice Education Quality Coordinator. We had an extensive search with many high-quality candidates. Andrew’s familiarity with the work and insights on how to think critically about standards moving forward stood out to the committee. He officially started in the new position on Monday, 8 November.

Unfortunately, this means that we now have an opening for the Peer Review Coordinator position that Andrew previously held. We have already posted that position; we hope to conduct interviews the week after Thanksgiving, at the latest. In the meantime, Andrew will ensure that Peer Review stays on the rails.

The division has begun to return to the National Life offices in a limited capacity. Most all staff will continue substantial remote work. Each team in the division will be coming in as a whole one Tuesday a month for in-person meetings and collaboration. Currently, the licensing team is beginning work to plan for the opening of the renewal season in January. Additionally, they are working to figure out the implementation details of our new requirement that all educators on a temporary license complete a criminal record check (more on this during the committee meetings).

A question has arisen regarding the definition of an endorsement. The rules define an endorsement as “the grade level and field in which an educator is authorized to serve.” On occasion, the office receives requests for a temporary endorsement in the same field, though covering a different grade level. (For example, an educator has previously been issued a provisional license in PE for K-6 and is now seeking a provisional licensing in PE for K-12.) Under the above definition, this is considered a different endorsement. By practice, the office will consider a provisional if the second request encompasses a grade level now covered by the first license, but not if the second request is narrower than the first. (To continue with the above example, the office would consider a second request for the K-12 grade level, as grades 7-12 were not covered under the first endorsement; however, if the first endorsement was for K-12, the office would not consider a second endorsement for grade levels K-6, as those grade levels were included in the initial provisional license.) This occurs on occasion. As the rules are not explicit on this matter, the office felt it best to clarify our practice.

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

Beginning January 2022 all temporary license applications will require the applicant to get fingerprinted for the Agency of Education per audit requirements. This will be a new step for districts. To keep the process moving the AOE will issue a LOE (Letter of Eligibility) until we receive the actual VCIC report for the person.

**Early Childhood Education application numbers:**

Currently 21 applications have been filed.

3 applications have been closed.

**Special Education Waiver Provisional application numbers:**

Currently 30 application have been filed.

1 application has been closed.

**L/RSB:**  BIG News! – the outstanding 2021 renewals were completed (approved and license fee paid) the week of November 1-5, 2021.

D. Giles has submitted 52 Grant Agreements for the 2021-2022 year to AOE Finance Office. 51/52 Grant Agreements have been completed. November reminders have been sent out regarding missing components of the Annual Report (2020-2021) and Grant Applications for 2021-2022.

An L/RSB November Newsletter for 2021 has been e-mailed to all L/RSB Chairs and Co-Chairs with various pieces of information for L/RSBs.

Online meetings are being scheduled with individual Boards. Several Boards have already scheduled a meeting.

New for 2021 – Deb has received requests for trainings for new L/RSB Chairs and three trainings are scheduled, two in November and one in early December.

Deb also continues to address questions and concerns from L/RSBs and educators regarding relicensure.

Current Work Queue per application type as of 11-8-2021: *Applications in the work queue are in various stages of processing from just received to waiting for payment from applicant.*

| Application Type | Total |
| --- | --- |
| Initial | 74 |
| Reinstatement | 22 |
| Renewal | 0 |
| Retired | 0 |
| Temporary | 53 |
| 1 Yr. Temporary – extenuating circumstance | 0 |
| Transcript Review – Initial | 37 |
| Transcript Review – Add endorsement | 41 |
| Peer Review - Initial | 70 |
| Peer Review – Add endorsement | 17 |