

Educator Quality Team

Staff Report for February 16, 2017

From the Educator Quality Division Director, Debi Price

The VSBPE meeting agenda for February 16, 2017 is a full one! Members of the Board will be discussing a variety of topics and giving approval for rule revisions for the next round of the [rule making process](#) which begins with a meeting with the members of the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules (ICAR), followed by a public comment period prior to final adoption through the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR).

Vermont was invited to provide feedback on the Council of Chief State Schools Officers (CCSSO) draft of Leadership Competencies for Personalized, Student-Centered Education. CCSSO in partnership with Jobs for the Future (JFF) have been facilitating a working group to examine the knowledge, skills and dispositions a leader would need to successfully transition an educational environment into a personalized, learner-centered environment. CCSSO developed the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders in 2015 which replaced the ISLLC Standards.

Although CCSSO and JFF have engaged various stakeholders in the development of this draft, they have not receive feedback directly from educators in the field thus far. As a result, they have asked us to convene Vermont teachers and leaders to provide feedback on the draft document. At this time the Agency is currently recruiting teachers and leaders to participate in a Focus Form. Participation expectations include reviewing the document and participating in a ninety (90) minute virtual Focus Forum that would take place sometime in March.

Once the finalized document is complete the AOE teams for Proficiency, Personalization and Educator Quality would review for alignment with current expectations of EQS, Act 77 and VSBPE Leadership Standards. In reviewing the first draft this work is incredibly promising. If the final version is as good as we expect, I would anticipate bringing together leaders to review and provide input concerning bringing these Competencies to the VSBPE for consideration in adopting for the purposes of principal licensure.

Finally, after 10 years as the VSBPE/AOE liaison, Rebecca Gile will be handing over her VSBPE box of materials and member contact list to Kara Mayo by the end the end of this school year. As part of the transition plan, Kara will be attending all VSBPE related meetings and gradually taking over full responsibilities of the work until the transition is complete. My sincere gratitude to Rebecca for her years of support for this important work.

From the In-service Educator Quality Team – Susan Yesalonia

2017 Renewal Season is here – to date approximately 200 renewals have been approved and another 100 are in the work queue. The Educator Quality Division has notified the field of

revisions to the renewal process. In order to renew an Educator License, the Agency must have a complete criminal record check on file. Read the [full memo here](#).

The Agency of Education has learned that the Secretary of State’s Office of Professional Regulation will not be issuing RN licenses to school nurses until April 1, 2017. To assure school nurses are properly endorsed as of 7/1/2017 that Agency will not process school nurse renewals until after April 1, 2017. School nurses were notified of this via email and [through an Educator Quality Memo](#).

The [Transcript Review to add an endorsement application process has been temporarily suspended](#) to allow Agency Educator Quality staff to develop new processes for reviewing applications. We anticipate rolling out new process in April of 2017.

The Agency has been tracking the number of endorsements licensing staff issue annually. Five EQ staff issue endorsements. This group is applauded for their hard work and productivity!

	2014	2015	2016	2017
January	28	77	159	191
Yearly Total	5396	5271	5710	

Current Work Queue per application type:

Application Type	Pending	*Under Review	Total
Initial online	12	115	127
Reinstatement online	4	19	23
Renewal	14	88	102
Retired online	0	0	0
Temporary online	7	14	21
Transcript Review – Initial	11	116	127
Transcript Review – Add endorsement	0	115	115
Peer Review - Initial	20	13	43
Peer Review – Add endorsement	9	15	24

*Under Review means the application has been reviewed and a Licensing Specialist is working with the educator. This group also includes applications where Letters of Eligibility have been issued or applications that are approved and awaiting payment.

**Under review Peer Review applications do not include applicants that are in the year of portfolio development.

From the Pre-service Educator Quality Team – Terry Reilly

Updating of the Transcript Review (TR) Alignments nears completion while two institutions have recently contacted the AOE inquiring about creating new alignments. Castleton University inquired about the Work Based Learning Coordinator endorsement and Marlboro College inquired about the English Language Learner endorsement. Upon further review from AOE general council, it was determined a no-cost contract is not needed to formalize an alignment. This will expedite the alignment approval process.

The following endorsement revisions are complete and ready for initial approval by the VSBPE for public comment: School Nurse, and Modern and Classical Languages. Stakeholders from the school nurse field will put forth a plan to sunset the Associate School Nurse endorsement. The National Council for Social Studies has yet again pushed back the release of new national standards. As such, stakeholders from the field recommend postponing the revision of the Social Studies endorsement. Final revisions are in progress for a change to the Endorsement Communication Plan. This will improve state wide communication as stakeholders learn of endorsement changes.

The Praxis II for Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for Teaching (CKT), assessment is adding a Science CKT subtest (7804/7904), and consequently ETS is planning a Multistate Standard-Setting Study for this subtest.

About the test: The CKT assessment is an addition to the Praxis Subject Assessments for elementary-level licensure. The CKT test represents a new kind of content assessment that focuses on specialized knowledge used only in teaching, with assessment tasks that measure how well teachers can apply their content knowledge in order to recognize, understand, and respond to the content problems they encounter in their day-to-day teaching practice. The Elementary Education: Reading and Language Arts—CKT and Mathematics—CKT subtests already include such tasks, and now the Science subtest will as well. In addition, the content specifications of the Science subtest were designed to reflect student expectations identified by the Next Generation Science Standards.

The Agency will be putting out an invitation for educators to participate in the pilot test. The test will be available for use starting fall 2017.

ROPA

Our ROPA Coordinator, Linda McSweeney continues preparing for the February 7th and 8th Norwich University review. Some areas of current focus for ROPA include: Institutional Portfolio evidence, scheduling, planning and logistics confirming use of in-state Chair, revision of Chapter 7 and 8 of the ROPA Handbook, and updating the ROPA Training Website.

PEER REVIEW

Peer Review Coordinator, Wendy Scott has been busy updating and creating new resource materials: Peer Review Program Coordinator Manual, New Panelists Handbook, ALiS instructions for initial and add endorsement Peer Review application. I would like to acknowledge Wendy's hard work and persistence in recruiting panelists with a pool of 50 at this time! We are averaging 2-4 Peer Review Panels a week really making some headway on the

previous backlog. Between 11/1/2016 to 1/31/2017 we accepted 64 new candidates to the Peer Review Program. The change to Saturday morning Clinics has received positive comments and all clinics fill their seats. Finally, Wendy has begun soliciting members for the Peer Review Advisory Committee (PRAC) with the focus largely concentrating on the latest ROPA report and transitioning to the Vermont Licensure Portfolio.