

TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: House Education Committee
FROM: Debora Price, Director Educator Quality Division, Agency of Education
TOPIC: Vermont Educator Licensing
DATE: April 5, 2017

Testimony is based on email request from Representative Sharpe to address the following:

1. Licensure requirements for Vermont educators
2. Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) Rule changes submitted to LCAR on December 13, 2016
3. Licensing Processes

Educator Licensure

16 V.S.A. § 1692 *Except for a substitute teacher in accordance with rules adopted by the Standards Board, a person shall not be employed as a teacher or administrator in a public school without having a license then in force. (Amended 1989, No. 118, § 3; 2005, No. 214 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. July 1, 2007.)*

This statute is reinforced through the definitions which link both administrators and teachers to individuals who for the majority of their time work in public school districts or supervisory unions.

Chapter 51 of Title 16 describes the role of the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) and their authority in defining licensing requirements. The AOE is assigned as the administrative support to this Board which is appointed by the Governor.

Endorsement Revisions- submitted to LCAR

16 V.S.A. § 1694 *In addition to any other powers and duties prescribed by law or incidental or necessary to the exercise of such lawful powers and duties, the Standards Board shall: (3) Establish standards, including endorsements, according to which individuals may obtain a license or have one renewed or reinstated. (Amended 2005, No. 214 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. July 1, 2007; 2015, No. 149 (Adj. Sess.), § 47.*

AOE issues licenses to educators based on the Rules established by VSBPE. Each educator license must also have an endorsement area- the specific field the teacher or administrator is authorized to teach (ex. Art or Science). VSBPE licenses educators in 77 Endorsement Areas: 7 Administrative Endorsements, 55 Teacher Endorsements, and 15 Sub-endorsements

Endorsement revision process:

1. VSBPE adopted a 5-year cycle for reviewing each endorsements
 - **2016-2017 Endorsement Revisions:** English; Science; Middle Grades English Language Arts, Middle Grades Science, Middle Grades Social Studies; Library Media Specialist, ROTC, Driver and Traffic Safety Education, School Nurse, Associate School Nurse
 - **2017-2018 Endorsement Revisions:** Bilingual, Ed Technologist, Online Teaching Specialist, Computer Science, Social Studies Business Education, Family Consumer Education, Music, Theater Arts, Dance & Art

2. AOE, on behalf of VSBPE, convenes Vermont educators and Vermont educator preparation program faculty who teach in the endorsement area. This panel determines what, if any, revisions are required and drafts the modified endorsements.
3. The VSBPE, through subcommittee work and as a whole, reviews the revisions and votes to initiate formal rule making if revisions are proposed.
4. Formal rule making includes ICAR, public comment, revision, a recommendation from VSBPE to submit final versions to LCAR and the LCAR process.

On December 13, 2016 the VSBPE submitted rule revisions for four (4) educator endorsement areas: 5440-05 English; 5440-13 Science; 5440-19 Middle Grades English Language Arts, Middle Grades Science, Middle Grades Social Studies; 5440-61 Library Media Specialist

In addition, §1695 allows for the Secretary of Education to oppose a rule revision if there would be a significant adverse effect on public schools.

Vermont Educator Licensing Processes

16 V.S.A. § 1694 *In addition to any other powers and duties prescribed by law or incidental or necessary to the exercise of such lawful powers and duties, the Standards Board shall: (4) Oversee and monitor the application and licensing process administered by the office. (Amended 2005, No. 214 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. July 1, 2007; 2015, No. 149 (Adj. Sess.), § 47.*

There are just under 18,000 licensed educators in Vermont. Each licensed educator may hold one or more than one endorsement area which specifies the type of teaching or administration the individual may perform. There are multiple licensing types (§1697) which include: Level I, Level II, Provisional, Emergency and Apprenticeship. Depending on license type the licensing period runs from 1 year to 5 years.

Number of Licenses Issued or Renewed				
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	6,342	6,999	5,710	793

Licensing Staff

- 1.4 FTE Online Licensing System
- 1.5 FTE phone & email- general licensing questions, criminal records, adult & child registries
- 4.0 FTE Licensing Specialists