

Date: 11/17/2023



Utah State
Board of
Education

November 17, 2023

Re: Wasatch Front Consortium APPEL Program

Floyd Stensrud
Wasatch Front Consortium APPEL Program Director
fstensrud@hawthornacademy.org

Dear Director Stensrud,

This letter is to provide an update on Wasatch Front Consortium (WFC) Alternate Pathway to Professional Educator License (APPEL) Corrective Action Plan dated November 10, 2022. The WFC APPEL Program entered probationary status 11/10/2022. Per [R277-301-4 \(7\)](#), the Board may revoke approval status. The Wasatch Front Consortium has not met the requirements of their Corrective Action Plan and is in violation of Board rules ([R277-114](#), [R277-301](#), [R277-303](#), and [R277-304](#)).

Please see the attached documentation that shows the status of each condition of the WFC APPEL Program Corrective Action Plan (CAP). In addition to the outstanding conditions of the CAP, the USBE Educator Licensing Team has received numerous complaints from Wasatch Front Consortium APPEL candidates by phone, email, and in person. These complaints describe a pattern of miscommunication, changing expectations, and Professional Learning Plans (PLPs) that are not consistent with Board rule. We have included several candidate emails.

The WFC APPEL Program CAP states that USBE will remove Wasatch Front Consortium APPEL from probationary status when 95% of the most recent 20 recommended candidates will be approved on initial review. The CAP also states that WFC APPEL Program shall submit a revised PLP for candidate files that USBE Educator Licensing determines do not meet Board rule requirements for a PEL.

According to USBE records, WFC APPEL Program has attempted to recommend 14 APPEL candidates listed below for a professional educator license since 11/10/2022. Nine (9) of those candidates' files met Board rules for a Utah Professional Educator License (PEL) which represents 64% approval on initial review.

The table below shows the date the file was submitted to USBE, whether the file met Board rule requirements for a PEL on initial review, and any communication between WFC APPEL Program and USBE Educator Licensing. Educators are identified by CACTUS number only to protect their privacy.

250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200 | Phone: (801) 538-7500

Date: 11/17/2023

Draft: n/a

Contact Person/Email: Malia Hite, malia.hite@schools.utah.gov

This is for consideration during the December 8, 2023 Law & Licensing Committee meeting.

Rule/Statute: R277-114, R277-301, R277-304

Date: 11/17/2023

<i>Order of Files Submitted</i>	<i>Date file submitted to USBE</i>	<i>CACTUS ID</i>	<i>File met Board rule requirements on initial review</i>	<i>Communication with WFC regarding missing evidence</i>
1	12/14/2022	711369	Yes	n/a
2	1/30/2023	764649	Yes	n/a
3	5/15/2023	708088	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email sent by Educator Licensing on 5/17/2023 • Response from WFC on 5/17/2023 requesting clarification; Feedback was provided as outlined in the CAP Update of 11/17/2023. • No plan submitted to Educator Licensing as of 11/17/2023
4	5/23/2023	715685	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email sent by Educator Licensing on 5/30/2023 • Response from WFC on 6/21/2023 requesting clarification; Feedback was provided as outlined in the CAP Update of 11/17/2023 • No plan submitted to Educator Licensing as of 11/17/2023
5	6/23/2023	745908	Yes	n/a
6	8/22/2023	711529	Yes	n/a
7	8/30/2023	188616	Yes	n/a
8	9/6/2023	717038	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email sent by Educator Licensing on 9/12/2023 • Response from WFC on 9/19/2023 requesting clarification; Feedback was provided as outlined in the CAP Update of 11/17/2023 • No plan submitted to Educator Licensing as of 11/17/2023
9	9/6/2023	690553	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email sent by Educator Licensing on 9/16/2023 • Response from WFC on 10/16/2023 and 10/23/2023; Feedback was provided as outlined in the CAP Update of 11/17/2023 • No plan submitted to Educator Licensing as of 11/17/2023
10	9/11/2023	722742	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email sent by Educator Licensing on 9/20/2023 • Response from WFC on 9/21/2023 requesting clarification; Feedback was provided as outlined in the CAP Update of 11/17/2023 • Plan submitted to Educator Licensing on 11/2/2023

Date: 11/17/2023

Draft: n/a

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11	9/14/2023	734768	Yes	n/a
12	10/30/2023	716853	Yes	n/a
13	10/14/2023	761512	Yes	n/a
14	11/2/2023	722742	Yes	n/a

To date, the WFC APPEL program has successfully recommended 9 out of 14 candidates on first review, or 64% of the most recent 14 recommended candidates.

Due to the conditions of the CAP not being met and additional evidence that WFC APPEL Program is in violation of aforementioned Board rules, Educator Licensing recommends the Board revoke approval status of the Wasatch Front Consortium APPEL Program and direct USBE licensing staff to work with enrolled educators to complete their PLPs.

The Law & Licensing Committee is scheduled to discuss this matter at their next committee meeting, Friday, December 8, 2023. Individuals who want to comment on any specific agenda item during the committee meeting, please contact Vanessa Barnes, vanessa.barnes@schools.utah.gov. Written comments may be sent to the Board at any time, board@schools.utah.gov.

Please contact the APPEL Support Team in Educator Licensing for any questions.

Sincerely,



Malia Hite, Ed.D.
Executive Coordinator of Educator Licensing
Utah State Board of Education

Enclosures 3

cc: Wade Glather, Ascent Academies of Utah
Shawn Miehle, HighMark Charter School
Angie Johnson, Mountain West Montessori Academy
Tana Archer, North Star Academy
David Bullock, Quest Academy
Michelle Beus, Assistant Attorney General
Ashley Biehl, Assistant Attorney General

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