

Workgroup 2 comments

USM/Ed Deans

10/16/18

Element 2a: Full year of practical experience

We want the commission to understand that this recommendation has inherent challenges and unintended consequences, and additional costs:

- 1) The state limits undergraduate degrees to 120 credits. By extending the internship/practicum to a full semester someone has to pay for more credits: will the state pay for the additional credits?
- 2) STEM teachers must major in STEM fields, and they must complete 4 years of science in their majors—the year-long internship could preclude STEM major undergraduates from becoming teachers, which is not a desirable outcome.
- 3) Internships, even within current schedule, are “inconvenient” for schools: many schools do not want interns in at beginning of the year, when teachers are bonding with their students, or at the end of the year when mandatory testing is taking place. Unless the public schools, as well as universities, are required to ensure extended internships for candidates, we cannot be sure there will be enough slots for candidates.
- 4) Public schools will need additional qualified mentors for year-long internships.

Element 2g: Career ladders

We would like to see a system that provides greater flexibility in allowing teachers to pursue *either* NBC *or* an advanced degree leading to critical shortage areas.

We hope the NBC pathway could be phased in and evaluated to ensure that the state benefits from both the rigor of NBC’s national standards, and the expert, depth of knowledge grounded in research, evidence-based practice and leadership development which are strengths of our higher education advanced degree programs.

We believe that flexibility of programs is one of Maryland’s strengths. Currently there are many pathways to teaching: traditional undergraduate, residency programs, post-bacc certificate programs, online, career changer programs, CTE Teacher Academy programs. We hope the recommendations recognize this flexibility as a strength.

We are strong supporters of the Element 2c: **Scholarships and Loans and Implementation Consideration 2a(1) Seed Grants**