

MEMORANDUM

DATE	April 4, 2022
TO	Board Members
FROM	Elaine Yamaguchi Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 8: Education Division Update: Discussion and Possible Action

The purpose of this memo is to summarize the two documents and make recommendations for the Board's consideration.

BACKGROUND

During the Board's 2021 Sunset Review hearing, the Legislature called attention to the serious backlog in the approval of prelicensure training schools and programs. Over the ensuing months, the Legislature approved, and the Governor signed AB 1536, which provided the Board with direction and authorization to develop and implement an efficient program approval process, aimed at eradicating the Board's backlog. The bill charged the Board with adopting Emergency Regulations by June 30, 2022. It also authorized the Board to charge the schools and programs fees for new and continuing approval.

Over the past year, the Board has communicated via Bulletins, emails, forums, and other means with the VN and PT education community and stakeholders about the proposed changes in the procedure for accepting and processing applications for new schools and programs. The first two Bulletins were approved by the Board and confirmed at the February meeting.

ISSUES

Bulletin #3, posted on the Board's website on March 8, 2022, officially abolishes the program approval wait list, and sets forth the Board's proposed procedures for the acceptance and approval of applications for new schools and programs. The Bulletin states that as of January 1, 2023, all applications will be processed through a procedure to be approved by the Board. This procedure will be set forth in the Board's Emergency Regulations package, which is yet to be adopted.

The draft of the package, though, does not accommodate the waiting list, and aims to start fresh.

Because the initial stages of the program approval process are so different from the procedures used through 2020-21, programs will be required to start the process with the new Letter of Intent and may not submit any materials until the Emergency Regulations are put in place. No previously-submitted Letters of Intent or previous requests to be placed on a waiting list will be factored into the process. All proposed programs wishing to be considered must follow the new process and procedures.

The Board sent a letter (attached) clarifying this and other upcoming changes to the Education Division's mailing list, which includes all current schools and programs, all entities who have expressed interest in starting new programs, and other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Board review and discuss Bulletin #3. If the Board concurs with the policy, the suggested motion would be to adopt and approve Bulletin #3.