

# VII.C.

## Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

### To Be Proposed:

May 1, 2024

**Resolved,** That the State Board of Education (SBE), pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(3)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval to University of Saint Joseph (USJ) for the period May 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, with annual progress monitoring conducted using Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) annual report data in conjunction with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Review Committee, for the purpose of certifying graduates from USJ in the following new certification area and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Program Level</b>	<b>Program Type</b>
Early Childhood	N-3	Initial	Undergraduate

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this first day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**Connecticut State Board of Education  
Hartford**

**To:** State Board of Education

**From:** Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

**Date:** May 1, 2024

**Subject:** Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: University of Saint Joseph, Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary Education N-3 and Special Education N-K, Undergraduate Level

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) and other organizations proposing new educator preparation programs must seek official approval through the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE). EPPs are required to participate in a Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) evaluation process designed to guide and support new program proposals. The proposal then moves forward to the CSDE Review Committee (Attachment A), which makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Education regarding new program approval based on evaluation findings. This report presents a summary of the evaluation process for the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) proposal for an undergraduate initial certification program in Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary Education N-3 and Special Education N-K, Undergraduate Level and includes the Commissioner of Education's recommendation for approval.

**History/Background**

Located in West Hartford, Connecticut, USJ is a private, coeducational university serving approximately 2,400 students through more than 30 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs across three schools. USJ is regionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).

The USJ Department of Education, housed in the School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education, offers initial licensure programs at both undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas of elementary education and various secondary subject areas, including English language arts, social studies/history, science (biology, chemistry, and general science), mathematics, and world languages (French, Italian, Spanish and Latin). Additionally, USJ offers initial licensure programs at the graduate level only in the areas of early childhood education and family and consumer science education. USJ also offers one advanced certification program in school counseling and multiple, non-certification programs leading to a Master of Arts degree in education. USJ's educator preparation

programs are fully accredited by the Council of Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP).

USJ is approved to offer a graduate program leading to Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary Education N-3 and Special Education N-K certification and is now seeking approval to offer the same program at the undergraduate level. This new program will help address the significant shortage of certified preschool and kindergarten special educators in Connecticut. During spring 2024 USJ submitted program materials to CSDE for review and it was confirmed that the undergraduate course work and assessments are consistent with the currently approved graduate program, and the program continues to meet all requirements and is aligned to CSDE regulations, current statutes, the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching, National Association of Young Children, and Council for Exceptional Children Standards. The CSDE Review Committee (Attachment A) reviewed the evaluation report and recommended full approval for the program (Attachment B).

### **Recommendation and Justification**

Based upon the CSDE evaluation and the recommendation of the CSDE Review Committee, I recommend that the USJ undergraduate program leading to Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary Education N-3 and Special Education N-K certification be granted full approval for the period May 1, 2024, through March, 31, 2025. If approved by the SBE, the program will begin implementation during Fall. In the interim, the CSDE Review Committee will review CAEP annual Staff Review Reports.

### **Follow-up Activity**

If granted full approval by the SBE, the Dean of the School of Education will be notified immediately so that USJ may start recruiting candidates for the Fall 2024 semester.

Prepared by: Lauren Tafrate, Associate Education Consultant, Talent Office

Reviewed by: Shuana K. Tucker, Ph. D., Chief Talent Officer, Talent Office

Approved by: Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Deputy Commissioner  
Educational Supports and Wellness

**Connecticut State Department of Education  
Educator Preparation Program Approval Review Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Term Ending</b>
1. Dorothea Anagnostopolous	University of Connecticut	Higher Education	September 5, 2026
2. Mel Horton	Sacred Heart University	Higher Education	March 31, 2025
3. Megan Mackey	Central Connecticut State University	Higher Education	March 31, 2025
4. Catherine O'Callaghan	Western Connecticut State University	Higher Education	September 5, 2026
5. Julie Sochacki	University of Hartford	Higher Education	September 5, 2026
6. Joseph Bonillo	Hartford Public Schools	K-12	September 5, 2026
7. Thomas Danehy	Area Cooperative Educational Services	K-12	September 5, 2026
8. Stacy McCann	Middletown Public Schools	K-12	September 5, 2026
9. Paul Whyte	New Haven Public Schools	K-12	September 5, 2026
10. Vacant		K-12	September 5, 2026
11. Camille Cooper	Yale Child Study Center	Community	March 31, 2025
12. Shannon Marimón	ReadyCT	Community	March 31, 2025

**Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for Educator Preparation Program Approval**

**Section 10-145d-9(g)**

**Board action**

After reviewing the recommendation of the Review Committee, the Commissioner shall make one or more recommendations to the Board. Based on the Commissioner's recommendation, the Board shall take one of the following actions.

**(1) For programs requesting continuing approval:**

- (A) Grant full program approval for seven years, or for a period of time to bring the program into alignment with the five year approval cycle. The Board may require that an interim report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (B) Grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (C) Grant probationary approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if significant and far-reaching non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Deny approval.

**(2) For new programs in institutions which have current approved programs:**

- (A) Grant full program approval for a period of time to bring the new program into the seven year approval cycle of all other programs offered by the institution. The Board may require that a written report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.

- (B) Grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (C) Grant probationary approval not to exceed three years, if significant and far-reaching non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Deny approval.

**(3) For new programs starting in institutions without other approved programs:**

- (A) Grant program approval for two years. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, after two semester of operation a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in implementing the new program. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (B) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant full program approval for three years. The Board may require that a written report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (C) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant probationary approval for up to three years, if significant and far-reaching non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (E) Deny approval.