



# Commissioner's Back-to-School Meeting

Connecticut State Department of Education | August 2018

## Talent Office Updates — Bureau of Certification

### Mission Statement

The mission of the CSDE Talent Office is to develop and deploy talent management and human capital development strategies to districts and schools state-wide so that the most effective educators are in every school and classroom and all students are prepared for college, career and life.

### Certification Changes due to Recent Legislation

Recently passed legislation has resulted in the following changes:

#### Public Act 18-34: An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention

- Educators enrolling in a CT planned program of study may meet the Subject Area Major requirement by obtaining a *passing* score on the State Board of Education (SBE) subject area test(s) and completing “advanced coursework” in a relevant subject area.
- Educators who hold an initial, provisional or professional level certificate may add an additional teaching endorsement (i.e. cross endorsement) to an existing certificate by obtaining a *passing* score on the appropriate subject area assessment(s). This provision only applies to secondary level content area endorsements in the following designated shortage areas: Mathematics, Science, World Languages and Technology Education (PK-12); it does not apply to Bilingual, TESOL, Special Education, School Library Media, or Speech Language Pathology (SLP).
- Educators who have obtained passing scores on subject area assessment(s) in other states determined by the SBE to be “equivalent” to the corresponding CT licensure assessment will no longer be required to re-take the CT assessment. Educators who were not required to take and pass licensure assessments in another state will be required to take and pass the appropriate Connecticut assessment. NOTE: Pursuant to the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, out of state educators who taught successfully under a valid certificate for at least three of the past ten years are exempt from CT licensure assessments.
- A candidate who does not meet Connecticut’s passing standard on a licensure assessment, but who is *within close range* of the established cut score, will be allowed a re-take at no cost to the candidate. The candidate must request a fee waiver directly from the test vendor(s). The CSDE is currently working to determine what score range would constitute *within close range* and will provide additional information by January 1, 2019

#### Public Act 18-51: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Education

- The Elementary Education Endorsement (#305) covers grades 1-6. However, a district wishing to employ an educator who holds the #305 may submit a written request to the Commissioner requesting a waiver to allow the educator to teach at the kindergarten level for **one school year**.

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

A district may request a waiver to employ the educator in Kindergarten for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year only if the educator is enrolled in an approved Connecticut early childhood educator preparation program for endorsement #112 or #113.

- A new three-year, nonrenewable interim certificate replaces the one-year nonrenewable interim certificate for educators who have completed an out of state teacher preparation program at a regionally accredited institution, an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education or who have taught successfully for at least two years in the last ten years under an appropriate certificate. This change allows additional time to pass required licensure assessments in CT. Educators who were issued a one-year nonrenewable interim certificate prior to July 1, 2018, are **not** eligible for this certificate.
  
- Candidates who attend a non-credit bearing alternate route to certification (ARC) program may meet statutory coursework requirements in comprehensive reading instruction and U.S. History through equivalency rather than through credits awarded to a transcript.

**P.A. 18-144: An Act Concerning Teacher Permits for Spouses of Transferred Members of the Armed Forces**

- The Connecticut State Board of Education will issue a three-year “military spouse teacher permit” to any individual who is the spouse of any member of the armed forces, has **two or more years** of teaching experience under an appropriate certificate in another state(s), territory or possession of the US or the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and whose spouse has received military orders directing them to Connecticut. Such an educator will be exempt from TEAM; however, the educator must complete a course of study in special education.