

# IX.A.

## Connecticut State Board Of Education Hartford

**To be Proposed:  
January 19, 2022**

**Resolved**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Fairfield University for the period January 19, 2022, through March 31, 2029, with annual monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) annual report, until Fairfield University's 2028 CAEP site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Fairfield University in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Secondary Grades:			
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
German	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Italian	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Latin	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
TESOL	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Special Education	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
School Counselor	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Psychologist	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Remedial Reading/	1-12	Advanced	Graduate
Remedial Language Arts			

\*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this nineteenth day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-Two.

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 :** January 19, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Continuing Educator Preparation Provider Program Approval: Fairfield University

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

Per Connecticut legislation (Special Act No. 16-22) and State Board of Education (SBE) policy, all Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) must become a Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) partner and become nationally accredited through CAEP. Additionally, per the SBE as of October 2021, Connecticut will use accreditation decisions based on CAEP accreditation visits to determine state continuing approval status for Connecticut EPPs. During spring 2021, Fairfield University hosted its first CAEP visit to determine continuing national accreditation and state program approval. This report provides a summary of accreditation findings and the CAEP accreditation decision for Fairfield University based on the spring 2021 visit, including the Commissioner's recommendation for continuing approval.

**History/Background**

Located in Fairfield, Connecticut, Fairfield University is a private, coeducational university serving over 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students through 48 undergraduate majors and 48 graduate programs across five schools. Fairfield University is regionally accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

The Fairfield University Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP) offers initial licensure programs at both undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas of elementary education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and various secondary subject areas, including English language arts, social studies/history, science (biology, chemistry, general science, and physics), mathematics, and world languages (Italian, French, German, Latin, and Spanish). Additionally, Fairfield University offers an initial licensure program at the undergraduate and graduate level in special education; advanced certification programs in remedial reading and language arts, school counseling, and school psychology; and multiple non-certification programs leading to a Master of Arts in education. Fairfield University educator preparation programs are currently fully approved by the SBE.

Fairfield University, previously nationally accredited through the now retired National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), hosted its first CAEP

accreditation visit during spring 2021. Due to COVID-19, the visit was conducted virtually. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) received the CAEP Action Report ([Action Report](#)) pertaining to the spring 2021 accreditation visit on November 9, 2021. As indicated in the report, CAEP has granted Fairfield University full accreditation for both initial and advanced programs for seven years, in alignment with the CAEP accreditation visit cycle. Additionally, four areas for improvement (AFIs) were identified for the initial programs and three AFIs identified for the advanced programs. AFIs indicate areas which must be improved by the time of the next CAEP accreditation visit, with progress reporting relative to remediation of AFIs included as part of the annual reports that EPPs are required to submit to CAEP. Accreditation for seven years is granted if the EPP meets all CAEP Standards and components, even if AFIs are identified in the CAEP Action Report based on the accreditation visit. The chart below shows the AFIs identified for Fairfield University for both initial and advanced programs:

<b>Initial Programs:</b>	<b>Areas for Improvement</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
STANDARD 3: Candidate Quality, Recruitment, And Selectivity	The EPP provided limited data to demonstrate recruitment of high-quality candidates from diverse backgrounds and to address high-needs areas.	The EPP's recruiting plan was incomplete. Goals and other components were not provided as part of a formal, coherent plan to recruit candidates, as well as progress reports towards meeting the goals.
	The EPP provided insufficient data to demonstrate that candidate cohorts meet the minimum cohort mean criteria on a standardized assessment of reading, writing, or mathematics.	Standardized reading, writing, and mathematics assessment data were not provided for all candidates and across programs.
STANDARD 5: Provider Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement	The EPP provided insufficient evidence that the quality assurance system relies on relevant, verifiable, representative, cumulative and actionable measures, and produces evidence the interpretations of data are valid.	No validity studies were provided for the EPP-created assessments.
	The EPP provided insufficient evidence of the use of stakeholder input.	Limited evidence was presented regarding stakeholder impact at the EPP level.
<b>Advanced Programs:</b>		
STANDARD A.3: Candidate Quality, Recruitment, And Selectivity	The EPP provided limited data to demonstrate a commitment to admission of high-quality candidates from diverse backgrounds and to address high-needs areas.	The EPP's admissions plan was incomplete. Evidence of monitoring employment trends or progress towards expanding diversity as part of a coherent strategic plan was not provided.
STANDARD A.5: Provider Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement	The EPP provided insufficient evidence that the quality assurance system relies on relevant, verifiable, representative, cumulative and actionable measures, and produces evidence the interpretations of data are valid.	There was no written phase-in plan or other evidence for some advanced programs.

	The EPP provided insufficient evidence that measures of advanced program completer outcomes are summarized, externally benchmarked, analyzed, shared widely, and acted upon in decision-making related to programs resource allocation, and future direction.	There was no written phase-in plan or other evidence for some advanced programs.
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### **Recommendation and Justification**

I am recommending full continuing approval for Fairfield University's educator preparation programs at both the initial and advanced levels for the period January 19, 2022, through March 31, 2029, due to Fairfield University's CAEP accreditation status based on a spring 2021 accreditation visit. Based on the CAEP seven-year visit cycle, Fairfield University's next CAEP accreditation visit is scheduled for spring 2028. The March 31, 2029, state approval deadline allows time for the CSDE to receive the final CAEP Action Report based on the spring 2028 visit and prepare a report for the SBE.

Additionally, the CSDE Review Committee will use data from the EPP Data Dashboard in conjunction with the CAEP Annual Report that EPPs submit each April to CAEP to monitor EPP programs between accreditation visits. The CSDE Talent Office in partnership with the CSDE Performance Office officially launched the EPP Data Dashboard during spring 2021. The CSDE continues to work with Connecticut EPP deans and program directors to finalize the monitoring system using the Data Dashboard indicators, with a target implementation date of March 1, 2022.

### **Follow-up Activity**

If the SBE grants full approval for Fairfield University's educator preparation programs, the Talent Office will communicate Fairfield University's approval status with Fairfield University leadership immediately. Additionally, the Talent Office will work on finalizing the EPP monitoring system and begin training EPP Review Committee members about the new process.

Prepared by: Katie Moirs, Ph.D., EPP Program Approval  
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Approved by: Shuana K. Tucker, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer,  
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