

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:

April 6, 2016

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval to Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) for the period April 6, 2016, through September 30, 2020, for the purpose of certifying graduates from CCSU in the following Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Special Education	K-12	Initial	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this sixth day of April, Two Thousand Sixteen.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

DATE: April 6, 2016

SUBJECT: New Program Approval, Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program Areas:
History/Social Studies and Special Education

Executive Summary

Introduction

All institutions or organizations proposing new educator preparation programs must seek official approval through the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE). The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) conducts a review and evaluation process designed to guide and support new program proposal efforts. The proposal then moves forward to the CSDE Review Committee, which reviews all continuing approval and new program evaluation findings and makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Education regarding approval (Attachment A).

Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) is currently approved for a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program that trains candidates to serve in Connecticut secondary education shortage areas. CCSU would like to add three new additional program areas—history/social studies, special education, and world languages—to the MAT program. A CSDE evaluation team reviewed CCSU’s proposal for these three program areas and recommended that two of the three program areas—history/social studies and special education—move forward to the Review Committee for consideration. This report presents a summary of team findings based on the review process and includes the Commissioner of Education’s recommendation regarding approval for the two new MAT program areas based on the Review Committee’s recommendation.

History/Background

Located in New Britain, Connecticut, CCSU is a comprehensive, public university dedicated to learning in the liberal arts and sciences. It is the largest of the four Connecticut State University (CSU) system institutions. CCSU has an annual enrollment of approximately 12,000 students—10,000 undergraduate students and 2,000 graduate students—with 433 full-time faculty and 491 part-time faculty. Consisting of five schools—Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Professional Studies, Engineering and Technology, and Graduate Studies—CCSU offers undergraduate and graduate programs at both the masters level and sixth-year level. Additionally, CCSU offers a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in Educational Leadership.

The CCSU School of Education and Professional Studies is organized into seven academic departments: Health and Human Services Professions; Educational Leadership; Nursing; Physical Education and Health Fitness Studies; Reading and Language Arts; Special Education; and Teacher Education. Within the School of Education and Professional Studies, the unit for professional education is organized into four academic schools: Arts and Sciences; Business; Technology; and Education and Professional Studies. Programs leading to initial certification include: art, elementary education, English, history/social studies, mathematics, music education, physical education, science (biology, chemistry, earth science, general science and physics), special education, technology, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and world languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish). Advanced programs are offered in educational administration and supervision, instructional technology, reading education, and school counseling.

CCSU also offers a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program that specifically targets teacher candidates wishing to serve in Connecticut secondary education shortage areas. On December 21, 2015, a team consisting of content area and assessment experts, including practicing educators based in Connecticut and representatives from Connecticut educator preparation programs, reviewed a CCSU proposal for three additional MAT program areas—history/social studies, special education, and world languages—to evaluate the quality of:

- (1) program scope and sequence, including courses and clinical experiences;
- (2) program assessments, including data collection, analysis, and reporting methods;
- (3) program faculty and instructor qualifications; and
- (4) program resources to support the training of program candidates and long-term program viability.

Additionally, CSDE consultants were included on the team to ensure that the proposal aligned with current certification and educator preparation regulations, as well as statutory requirements governing educator preparation programs.

Based on a thorough and rigorous review of all application materials, the team determined that the CCSU proposal required some additional work to meet all criteria required for new program proposals. CCSU completed the required work and submitted a second proposal for evaluation on February 22, 2016. Based on a review of CCSU's second proposal submission, the team determined that the proposal for two of the three program areas—history/social studies and special education—should move forward to the Review Committee for consideration. However, the proposal related to the third program area—world languages—still needed additional work regarding curriculum development and faculty resources. During a March 29, 2016, meeting, the CSDE Review Committee recommended full approval for both the history/social studies and special education program areas. Additionally, the Review Committee recommended that the next review of the two new program areas be included with CCSU's next continuing approval visit in spring 2020, during which all CCSU educator preparation programs will be reviewed (Attachment B).

Recommendation and Justification

Based upon evaluation team findings and the recommendation of the CSDE Review Committee, the CSDE recommends that CCSU be granted full approval for two additional MAT program areas— history/social studies and special education—for the period April 6, 2016, through September 30, 2020, at which point these new program areas will be reviewed along with all CCSU educator preparation programs during CCSU's mandated continuing approval visit.

Follow-up Activity

If granted full approval by the SBE, the two additional CCSU MAT program areas— history/social studies and special education—will be reviewed during the next CCSU continuing approval visit for all of its educator preparation programs, currently scheduled for spring 2020. Additionally, the CSDE will continue to support CCSU’s work around revising the proposal for world languages, which CCSU will submit for review and evaluation by the CSDE during summer 2016.

Prepared by: _____
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Reviewed by: _____
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Approved by: _____
Sarah J. Barzee, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer
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**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Educator Preparation Program Approval Review Committee**

<p>1. Dr. Helen Abadiano Chair, Reading and Language Arts Department School of Education and Professional Studies Central Connecticut State University (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>2. Dr. Hari Koirala Chair, Department of Education School of Education and Professional Studies Eastern Connecticut State University (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>3. Dr. Patricia Mulcahy-Ernt Director, Graduate Programs, Literacy/English Education Director, Center for Excellence, Learning and Teaching University of Bridgeport (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>4. Retired – Needs to be Filled</p> <p>5. Retired – Needs to be Filled</p>	<p>1. Joseph Bonillo Educator, History/Social Studies Waterford High School Waterford Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>2. Kenneth Di Pietro Superintendent Plainfield Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>3. Dr. David Erwin Superintendent Avon Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>4. Dr. Erin McGurk Director, Educational Services Ellington Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>5. Dr. Salvatore Menzo Superintendent Wallingford Public Schools (9/2013-9/2016)</p>	<p>1. A. Bates Lyons President Bates Lyons and Associates Torrington, CT (9/2013-9/2016)</p> <p>2. Retired – Needs to be Filled</p>	<p>Dr. Katie Toohey CSDE</p> <p>Shannon Marimon CSDE</p> <p>Dr. Noah Dion OHE</p>
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**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 five 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 five 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 semesters 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.