

Series 2002-2003
Circular Letter: C-35

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Elementary, Middle and High School Principals
Connecticut Educators Association Staff
Connecticut Federation of Educator and Professional Employees Staff
Teachers Retirement Board Staff
Deans and Directors of Schools of Education

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi
Commissioner of Education

DATE: June 27, 2003

SUBJECT: New Endorsements for Elementary and Special Education Teachers and
Repeal of Certification Regulations Effective July 1, 2003

As most of you know, the Department submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly statutory language that would allow districts to hire individuals who hold elementary certificates for grades 1 through 6 into kindergarten positions. It also authorized individuals who hold comprehensive special education for grades 1 through 12 to teach in kindergarten positions. The legislature recently passed the bill containing the revised legislative language. The bill is now part of a large number of bills that were passed late in the legislative session and are awaiting the Governor's signature. We anticipate, however, that the Governor will sign the bill.

Specifically, PA 03-168 amends CGS Section 10-145d to authorize all holders of the elementary education certificate (#005 - grades 1 through 6) to teach kindergarten as of July 1, 2003. By late July, all educators who hold a certificate in elementary education will be sent a new certificate identifying the kindergarten.

Additionally, the same legislation authorized the teaching of kindergarten for all holders of the comprehensive special educator certificate (#265 - grades 1 through 12) as of July 1, 2003. By late July, all educators who hold certificates in comprehensive special education will also be sent a new certificate identifying the kindergarten authorization.

The certificates will be sent to the educators' address that we currently have on file. If a certificate holder with either of these two designations does not receive a revised certificate by early August 2003, please instruct him or her to contact our office by email or telephone to provide us with his or her current address.

Beginning July 1, 2003, all NEW elementary and comprehensive special educator endorsements to be issued will include kindergarten. The elementary certification endorsement will now be kindergarten through grade 6 (endorsement code #013) and the comprehensive special education endorsement will be kindergarten through grade 12 (new endorsement code #165), inclusive.

The third issue addressed by the statutory change was the repeal of the certification regulations that were to have become effective July 1, 2003. Subsequent to July 1st, we will continue to certify applicants in accordance with the regulations in effect from August 6, 1998 through June 30, 2003, with the above-mentioned modifications.

If you have questions concerning these changes, please contact Nancy Pugliese, Acting Chief, Bureau of Education Preparation and Certification at (860) 713-6708 or via email at nancy.pugliese@po.state.ct.us, or Betty Sternberg, Associate Commissioner at (860) 713-6700 or via email at betty.sternberg@po.state.ct.us.

TSS:nlp