



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Series: 2007-2008

Circular Letter: C-11

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Executive Directors, Regional Educational Service Centers
Directors, Magnet and Charter Schools

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education

DATE: January 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Visiting International Teacher Permits (Public Act No. 07-30)

During the 2007 session of the Connecticut General Assembly, a new law was enacted regarding visiting international teacher permits that allows teachers from other countries with which the Connecticut State Department of Education (Department) has an agreement to become permitted to teach in Connecticut public schools. The law also covers visiting international teachers participating in programs under the United States Department of State Teacher Exchange Branch, which includes the Fulbright Program and the Teachers of Critical Languages Program. The teachers who are granted this permit are considered "highly qualified" under the regulations of "No Child Left Behind."

This temporary permit is issued for one year and renewable twice upon district request. It coincides with the teacher's J-1 visa issued under the United States Department of State's Exchange Visitor Program. Teachers must have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, meet the teaching credential requirements for their home country and achieve a level of oral proficiency in English as approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Under current Department agreements, teachers are coming from India to teach mathematics and sciences and volunteer teachers are coming from China to teach Mandarin. We expect to initiate a new volunteer teacher program for teachers coming from Italy to teach Italian. The teachers from India are hired under local contract. The volunteer teacher programs generally require the districts to provide room, board, transportation to and from school and health insurance. Many of these teachers are hosted in families. For more information, please contact Dr. Mary Ann Hansen, state world language consultant, by phone at (860) 713-6753 or by e-mail at mary_ann.hansen@ct.gov. The application deadline for requesting teachers from these programs begins in February for the following school year.

International teachers who do not come under the Department's programs or the United States Department of State Teacher Exchange Branch programs must meet all requirements for Connecticut certification. They are not eligible for the Visiting International Teacher Permit.

Attached is a copy of Public Act No. 07-30, "An Act Concerning Visiting International Teacher Permits." We hope that this is helpful.

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Attachment

Public Act No. 07-30

AN ACT CONCERNING VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHER PERMIT

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The State Board of Education shall, upon the request of a local or regional board of education, issue an international teacher permit in a subject shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b of the general statutes, provided the conditions for issuance of such permit pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section are met. Such permits shall be issued for one year and may be renewed for a period of up to one year, upon the request of the local or regional board of education, provided the permit shall not be renewed more than twice in the two years subsequent to the initial issuance.

(b) The local or regional board of education requesting the issuance of an international teacher permit shall attest to the existence of a plan for the supervision of the teacher.

(c) The teacher shall:

(1) Hold a J-1 visa issued by the United States Department of State;

(2) Be in the United States to teach (A) in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between Connecticut and the country from which the teacher is entering, or (B) as part of the Exchange Visitor Program administered by the United States Department of State Teacher Exchange Branch;

(3) (A) Hold the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, as determined by a foreign credentialing agency recognized by the Commissioner of Education, with a major in or closely related to the certification endorsement area in which the teacher is to teach, or (B) hold such a degree without such a major and have successfully completed the teacher assessment for the appropriate subject area, as approved by the State Board of Education;

(4) Have completed, in the country from which the teacher is entering, the equivalent of a regionally accredited teacher preparation program; and

(5) Have achieved the level of oral proficiency in English as determined by an examination approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Approved May 18, 2007