



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
Regional Educational Service Center Executive Directors
Charter School Directors
Cooperative Educational Service Center Directors
Magnet School Directors
Special Education Facility Administrators

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education

DATE: October 29, 2007

SUBJECT: Teacher Certification – “Formal Pathways” Available in Theatre Arts or Dance

Effective July 1, 2007, the State Department of Education, Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, has authorized and approved “Formal Pathways” for qualified candidates to obtain a unique endorsement (#110) in theatre arts or dance. The agency is approving district-requested *Durational Shortage Area Permits (DSAPs)* for theatre arts and dance candidates to ensure that certified teachers are instructing Connecticut’s students. Candidates in theatre arts or dance will be able to use two years of teaching under DSAPs to complete the teaching experience required for certification. The guidelines containing coursework requirements for certification in theatre arts and dance are attached. Beginning with school year 2010-2011, *all* theatre arts and dance teachers serving in a Connecticut public school must hold appropriate certification.

In order to make initial certification in theatre arts and dance available, the “Formal Pathways” are being offered to candidates holding a DSAP in theatre arts or dance through coursework completed at the following Connecticut institutions:

- “Formal Pathway” in Theatre Arts offered exclusively through Western Connecticut State University (WCSU); and
- “Formal Pathway” in Dance offered in collaboration between Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) (content coursework only) and Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) (all professional education and some content coursework).

To obtain a one-year DSAP an individual must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements: hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution; passed Praxis I PPST or obtained the Praxis I waiver; and completed 12 semester hours of credit in the subject to be taught under a DSAP. Please note that a DSAP may be issued to a Connecticut board of education for one year on behalf of an applicant and may be renewed up to two additional times, so long as the applicant has completed at least 9 semester hours of credit under each DSAP.

WCSU and CCSU/NVCC will ensure that the coursework contained in the attached guidelines for theatre arts and dance is made available and that each student enrolled in the appropriate "Formal Pathway" is provided with DSAP supervision while they are employed under a DSAP for a Connecticut board of education. WCSU and CCSU will follow current practice concerning DSAP supervision provided for existing planned programs at the institution.

In addition, the State Department of Education will review each application (ED 177) for a DSAP requested by a Connecticut board of education in theatre arts or dance to determine what missing coursework needs to be completed before an applicant may enroll in the state-approved "Formal Pathway," in order to complete all eligibility requirements. Once under a DSAP, the candidate must complete any required coursework at one of the institutions offering the state-approved "Formal Pathway," with the one exception of any credits they earn through Charter Oak State College for life experience in theatre arts or dance.

For your information, artists who do not hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution are encouraged to obtain a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in theatre arts or dance during the next three years, so that they may become eligible for a DSAP in theatre arts or dance by school year 2010-2011. Several Connecticut institutions offer a bachelor's degree in fine arts including dance, such as Connecticut College, Quinnipiac University, Southern Connecticut State University, Trinity College, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, Wesleyan University, Western Connecticut State University and Yale University; however, no Connecticut higher education institution currently offers a theatre education or dance education program.

The State Department of Education is committed to the "Formal Pathways" being available for at least three years (under the DSAP option for certification), so that theatre arts or dance teachers may obtain initial certification in theatre arts or dance based on the aforementioned experience, testing and coursework requirements. Amendments to current certification regulations to create separate theatre arts and dance certification will be included with other proposed changes to certification regulations in the next several years.

Please take the time to review this material with your Personnel Director and any affected staff as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy L. Pugliese, J.D., Chief, Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, at (860) 713-6709 or by e-mail at nancy.pugliese@ct.gov.

MKM:npw

Attachments

cc: Human Resource Directors

ATTACHMENT A

Theatre Arts Certification (for live theatre or video/film)

Sec. 10-145d-456. Initial educator certificate requirements

On and after July 1, 1993, to receive an initial educator certificate for a special subject or field an applicant shall present evidence of meeting the following requirements, in addition to meeting the assessment requirement (Praxis I PPST or qualify for Praxis I waiver):

- (a) Holds a bachelor's degree from an approved institution;
- (b) Has a minimum of 39 semester hours of credit in general academic courses in five of the six areas listed below, including a course in United States history. On and after July 1, 1998, a survey course in United States history comprised of not fewer than three semester hours of credit shall be included.
 - (1) Natural sciences;
 - (2) Social studies;
 - (3) Fine arts;
 - (4) English;
 - (5) Mathematics; and
 - (6) Foreign language;
- (c) Has completed a subject area major awarded by an approved institution in the subject area for which endorsement is sought; (see criteria on next page)**
- (d) Has a minimum of 18 semester hours of credit in professional education in a planned program of study and experience to be distributed among each of the following:
 - (1) Foundations of education. This group includes areas such as: (1) philosophy of education, (2) school effectiveness, (3) history of education and (4) comparative education;
 - (2) Educational psychology. This group includes areas such as: (1) growth and development of children from birth through the life span, (2) psychology of learning, (3) child-adolescent psychology and (4) mental hygiene;
 - (3) Curriculum and methods of teaching. This group includes areas such as: (1) subject-area curriculum and methodology and (2) effective teaching skills;
 - (4) Supervised observation, participation and full-time responsible student teaching totaling at least six but not more than 12 semester hours of credit; and
 - (5) A course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than 36 clock hours, which shall include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special-needs children in the regular classroom.

Attachment A (continued)

** "For theatre arts, an applicant shall present a subject area major or its equivalent in theatre or video/film, including coursework in each of the following:

- a) applied acting;
- b) directing;
- c) technical theatre (design, stagecraft, or video/film techniques);
- d) movement for actors or dance;
- e) voice for theatre or music;
- f) dramatic literature of the theatre (or video/film) representing a variety of historical and cultural contexts;
- g) English composition;
- h) literary (or video/film) criticism and interpretation;
- i) creative dramatics, process drama, or video/film option;
- j) creative writing, including scriptwriting (play- or screenwriting); and
- k) theatre (or video/film) education methods/curriculum (including elementary and secondary, with connections to literacy and writing)."

ATTACHMENT B

Dance Certification

Sec. 10-145d-456. Initial educator certificate requirements

On and after July 1, 1993, to receive an initial educator certificate for a special subject or field an applicant shall present evidence of meeting the following requirements, in addition to meeting the assessment requirement (Praxis I PPST or qualify for Praxis I waiver):

- (a) Holds a bachelor's degree from an approved institution;
- (b) Has a minimum of 39 semester hours of credit in general academic courses in five of the six areas listed below, including a course in United States history. On and after July 1, 1998, a survey course in United States history comprised of not fewer than three semester hours of credit shall be included.
 - (1) Natural sciences;
 - (2) Social studies;
 - (3) Fine arts;
 - (4) English;
 - (5) Mathematics; and
 - (6) Foreign language;
- (c) Has completed a subject area major awarded by an approved institution in the subject area for which endorsement is sought; (see criteria on next page)*
- (d) Has a minimum of 18 semester hours of credit in professional education in a planned program of study and experience to be distributed among each of the following:
 - (1) Foundations of education. This group includes areas such as: (1) philosophy of education, (2) school effectiveness, (3) history of education and (4) comparative education;
 - (2) Educational psychology. This group includes areas such as: (1) growth and development of children from birth through the life span, (2) psychology of learning, (3) child-adolescent psychology and (4) mental hygiene;
 - (3) Curriculum and methods of teaching. This group includes areas such as: (1) subject-area curriculum and methodology and (2) effective teaching skills;
 - (4) Supervised observation, participation and full-time responsible student teaching totaling at least six but not more than 12 semester hours of credit; and
 - (5) A course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than 36 clock hours, which shall include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special-needs children in the regular classroom.

Attachment B (continued)

* "For dance, an applicant shall present a subject area major or its equivalent in dance, including coursework in each of the following:

- a) applied study in ballet;
- b) two applied courses in modern dance;
- c) applied study in a third folkloric or classical world dance form (e.g., tap, jazz, ballroom/social, African, flamenco, Balinese);
- d) composition/choreographic principles and dance improvisation;
- e) dance history/cultures representing a variety of periods and ethnic groups;
- f) applied anatomy/kinesiology; and
- g) nutrition in a wellness or fitness context; and
- h) dance education methods/curriculum (including elementary and secondary)."