

# VIII.C.

**Connecticut State Board of Education  
Hartford**

**To Be Proposed:  
January 14, 2026**

**Resolved:** That pursuant to Section 10-150c(b)(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes, and in accordance with the December 3, 2025, recommendation of the State Board of Education's Legislation and Policy Development Committee, the State Board of Education hereby rejects the Proposed Legislative Amendment – Educator Certification Oversight and Board Member Recusal submitted by the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**Adopt Legislative Proposal -  
Legislative Amendment for Educator Certification Oversight and  
Board Member Recusal**

**Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this proposal is to transfer authority for the approval of educator certificates from the State Board of Education to the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, composed of representatives from across the education community, to establish protocols for initial certification waiver requests, and to require Board members to recuse themselves from decisions in which they have a direct personal, professional, or financial interest.

**Summary of Proposed Changes**

- Amend Sec. 6 of the Connecticut General Statutes to shift approval authority for initial educator certification to the CEPCB.
- Establish protocols and guidance for the process of initial certification waiver requests, as outlined in new subsection (c), to reduce redundant waivers and clarify administrative procedures.
- Add a recusal clause requiring members to abstain from discussions or votes on matters where they have a direct personal, professional, or financial interest.
- Maintain the State Board of Education's role in formally issuing the certificates upon CEPCB approval.
- Align statutory language with the CEPCB's charge under Public Act 24-41.

**Closing**

I respectfully submit this proposal for the Board's consideration. Adoption of these changes will ensure statutory alignment, enhance transparency, and strengthen CEPCB's oversight role.

## Supporting Memo

This amendment aligns statutory authority for educator certification with the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB), as established in Public Act 24-41. The CEPCB was created to modernize and align educator preparation and certification in Connecticut, with a statutory charge to develop standards, recommend regulations, and review and approve educator preparation programs.

Transferring approval authority from the State Board of Education to the CEPCB ensures that program oversight and certification decisions are carried out by the body specifically charged with this responsibility under statute. This alignment promotes consistency, transparency, and collaboration across preparation pathways.

The addition of subsection (c), which establishes protocols and guidance for initial certification waiver requests, addresses the problem of redundant waivers and provides streamlined administrative procedures.

The addition of subsection (d) a recusal requirement provides a safeguard against conflicts of interest, ensuring that decisions remain impartial and trusted while reflecting the broad perspectives of education stakeholders represented on the CEPCB.

It is important to note that Section 11 of Public Act 24-41, which establishes the review and approval dynamic between the CEPCB and CSBE, pertains solely to the development of standards and proposals for regulations and legislation related to educator preparation and certification. It does not govern, nor does it add any oversight to, the approval of individual educator certifications or waiver requests. Therefore, the transfer of authority to the CEPCB for initial certification and waiver recommendations does **not** create any additional layer of approval or procedural requirement for educators seeking certification. The statutory process for issuing certificates remains with the State Board of Education, consistent with existing practice.

### Key:

- Brackets & Strikethroughs are removed language
- Underlines are new language
- Blue are hyperlinks

**Proposed Amendment with Recusal Clause** (Statute, related cross-references, and regulations may need alignment to reflect that the authority is shifted throughout the statutes)

Sec. 6. ~~[(NEW)]~~ (Effective July 1, ~~[2024]~~ 2026)

The State Board of Education shall issue, in accordance with the provisions of section [10-145b](#) of the general statutes, as amended by this act, an initial educator certificate to any person who successfully satisfies one of the following pathways to professional certification:

(1) Successful completion of an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education.

(2) Successful completion of an alternate route to certification program pursuant to section [10-145p](#), [10-145t](#), as amended by this act, [10-145w](#), as amended by this act, or [10-155d](#) of the general statutes.

(3) Is an educator from another state and meets the requirements set forth in subsections [\(c\) and \(f\) of section 10-145f](#), section [10-146c](#) or section [10-146i](#) of the general statutes.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the ~~[State Board of Education]~~ Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board may waive any of the requirements of this section and recommended issuance of ~~[issue an]~~ initial educator certificate by the State Board of Education to any person who presents a combination of education and experience that the ~~[state board]~~ Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board determines is the equivalent of the education and experience required under this section.

(c) The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, in coordination with the State Department of Education, shall establish protocols and guidance for the process of initial certification waiver requests.

(d) Any member of the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board who has a direct personal, professional, or financial interest in an educator preparation program, or applicant under consideration shall recuse themselves from any discussion or vote on such matter.

## Links:

[Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board Platform](#)

## References:

Connecticut General Assembly. 2024. "Public Act 24-41: An Act Concerning Educator Preparation and Certification."

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2024/ACT/PA/PDF/2024PA-00041-R00HB-05436-PA.PDF>

## Additional Regulations and Statutes to Consider:

Section 10-145d-412(a)(3) up for repeal July 2026

PA 18-13, PA 23-167 Sec 8(c)

## Relevant Statutes on Recusal for Connecticut Board Members

### 1. C.G.S. § 1-84 – Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees

Prohibits public officials and state employees, including board members, from participating in matters where they have a financial interest.

[https://portal.ct.gov/chro/education-and-outreach/employees/code-of-ethics-for-public-officials-and-state-employees?utm\\_source](https://portal.ct.gov/chro/education-and-outreach/employees/code-of-ethics-for-public-officials-and-state-employees?utm_source)

### 2. C.G.S. § 1-86 – Required Action for Potential Conflict of Interest

Requires disclosure of financial interests and prevents action on matters where a conflict exists unless a written statement justifies impartiality.

<https://test-cd.ct.gov/-/media/ethics/guides/2020/public-officials-and-state-employees-guide-rev-january-2020.pdf>

### 3. C.G.S. § 8-21 – Disqualification in Municipal Commissions

Illustrates the general principle that members must recuse themselves from matters in which they have a personal or financial interest; applicable by analogy to state boards.

[https://law.justia.com/codes/connecticut/title-8/chapter-126/section-8-21/?utm\\_source](https://law.justia.com/codes/connecticut/title-8/chapter-126/section-8-21/?utm_source)

**Recommendation:** CEPCB should adopt a formal recusal policy requiring disclosure, recusal from discussions and votes, and documentation in meeting minutes to maintain transparency and compliance with state law.

I acknowledge the use of AI systems to refine the language of source materials, check the accuracy of the work, and assist with tone and language accuracy.

The following system was used: OpenAI. (2023). ChatGPT (Mar 14 version) [Large language model]. Accessed August 20, 2025.  
<https://chat.openai.com/chat>