

IX.A.

Connecticut State Board Of Education Hartford

**To Be Proposed:
February 2, 2022**

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Western Connecticut State University for the period February 2, 2022, through March 31, 2029, with annual monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) annual report, until Western Connecticut State University's 2028 CAEP site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Western Connecticut State University in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate
Secondary Education:			
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Music Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Health Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate
School Counseling	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Intermediate Administrator	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Remedial Reading/Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate
Reading/Language Arts Consultant	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this second day of February, Two Thousand Twenty-Two.

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

**Connecticut State Board Of Education
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

DATE : February 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Continuing Educator Preparation Provider Program Approval: Western Connecticut State University

Executive Summary

Introduction

Per Connecticut legislation (Special Act No. 16-22) and State Board of Education (SBE) policy, all Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) must become a Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) partner and become nationally accredited through CAEP. Additionally, per the SBE as of October 2021, Connecticut will use accreditation decisions based on CAEP accreditation visits to determine state continuing approval status for Connecticut EPPs. During spring 2021, Western Connecticut State University hosted its first CAEP visit to determine continuing national accreditation and state program approval. This report provides a summary of accreditation findings and the CAEP accreditation decision for Western Connecticut State University based on the spring 2021 visit, including the Commissioner's recommendation for continuing approval.

History/Background

Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), which began as a normal school in 1903 and evolved into a comprehensive four-year state institution by 1983, consists of two major campuses in Danbury, Connecticut. Midtown, the university's main campus, is located in downtown Danbury; Westside is a smaller campus approximately three miles from the Midtown campus. WCSU enrolls approximately 5,300 students across four schools — Ansell School of Business, The Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences, School of Professional Studies and School of Visual and Performing Arts — with about 600 of these students enrolled as graduate students. The university employs 215 full-time faculty members, and 393 part-time faculty members. WCSU is fully accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).

The Education and Educational Psychology Department, housed within the School of Professional Studies, is the main unit for professional educator preparation and partners with two other WCSU schools — The Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences and School of Visual and Performing Arts — for the preparation and training of education professionals. The Department offers preparation programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels, and serves approximately 800 students per year. WCSU educator preparation programs are currently fully approved by the SBE.

Western Connecticut State University, previously nationally accredited through the now retired National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), hosted its first CAEP accreditation visit during spring 2021. Due to COVID-19, the visit was conducted virtually. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) received the CAEP Action Report (Action Report) pertaining to the spring accreditation visit on November 9, 2021. As indicated in the report, CAEP has granted Western Connecticut State University full accreditation for both initial and advanced programs for seven years, in alignment with the CAEP accreditation visit cycle. Additionally, one area for improvement (AFI) was identified for the advanced programs. AFIs indicate areas which must be improved by the time of the next CAEP accreditation visit, with progress reporting relative to remediation of AFIs included as part of the annual reports that EPPs are required to submit to CAEP. Accreditation for seven years is granted if the EPP meets all CAEP Standards and components, even if AFIs are identified in the CAEP Action Report based on the accreditation visit. The chart below shows the AFI identified for Western Connecticut State University for the advanced programs:

Advanced Program	Area for Improvement	Rationale
STANDARD A.4: Program Impact	The EPP provided limited evidence that employers are satisfied with completers and that completers reach employment milestones such as promotion and retention. (component A.4.1)	The EPP provided insufficient data and analysis for employer satisfaction.

Recommendation and Justification

I am recommending full continuing approval for Western Connecticut State University's educator preparation programs at both the initial and advanced levels for the period February 2, 2022, through March 31, 2029, due to Western Connecticut State University's CAEP accreditation status based on a spring 2021 accreditation visit. Based on the CAEP seven-year visit cycle, Western Connecticut State University's next CAEP accreditation visit is scheduled for spring 2028. The March 31, 2029, state approval deadline allows time for the CSDE to receive the final CAEP Action Report based on the spring 2028 visit and prepare a report for the SBE.

Additionally, the CSDE Review Committee will use data from the EPP Data Dashboard in conjunction with the CAEP Annual Report that EPPs submit each April to CAEP to monitor EPP programs between accreditation visits. The CSDE Talent Office in partnership with the CSDE Performance Office officially launched the EPP Data Dashboard during spring 2021. The CSDE continues to work with Connecticut EPP deans and program directors to finalize the monitoring system using the Data Dashboard indicators, with a target implementation date of March 1, 2022.

Follow-up Activity

If the SBE grants full approval for Western Connecticut State University's educator preparation programs, the Talent Office will communicate Western Connecticut State University's approval status with Western Connecticut State University leadership immediately. Additionally, the Talent Office will work on finalizing the EPP monitoring system and begin training EPP Review Committee members about the new process.

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Approved by: Shuana K. Tucker, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer
Talent Office