

# VIII.C.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:**

March 3, 2021

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(3)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period March 3, 2021, through September 30, 2026, to Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), with annual progress monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard until CREC's next state program approval review, for the purpose of certifying graduates from CREC in the following new certification area:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Program Level</b>	<b>Program Type</b>
Teachers of the Visually Impaired	PK-12	Initial	Alternate Route to Certification

and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this third day of March, Two Thousand Twenty One.

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, Acting Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** March 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Capitol Region Education Council, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Program

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) and other organizations must be approved for new educator preparation programs through the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE). Those seeking approval for new programs are required to participate in a Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) evaluation process designed to guide and support new program proposals. The proposal then moves forward to the CSDE Review Committee (Attachment A), which makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Education regarding new program approval based on evaluation findings. This report presents a summary of the evaluation process for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) proposal for an education preparation program for teachers of the visually impaired (TVI) and includes the Commissioner of Education's recommendation for approval.

**History/Background**

Section 10-145b(c)(1)(B)(iv) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) to issue certain certificates to applicants who have completed an alternate route to certification (ARC) program that are approved by the CSBE. CREC, one of six regional educational service centers established by statute, was granted approval through the CSBE in 2006 to offer an ARC program leading to a cross endorsement in comprehensive special education (#165) for licensed, experienced Connecticut educators. CREC AARC, which accepts 25-30 educators annually, is a 14-month program consisting of three phases of study combining classroom learning, field-based experiences, and job-embedded training to prepare candidates for the role of special educator. CREC AARC is currently fully approved through the CSBE to September 30, 2026.

CREC is now seeking approval through the CSBE for an educator preparation program for teachers of the visually impaired, PK-12. A preparation program for educators of the visually impaired requires special education training in addition to focused training specific to working with visually impaired students. Consequently, the proposed program for teachers of the visually

impaired will allow educators currently holding Connecticut special education certification to pursue the additional coursework and training required for teachers of the visually impaired and those holding Connecticut general certification (e.g., elementary education; secondary mathematics) to pursue training for both certification areas (special education and teachers of the visually impaired). Similar to the CREC AARC program, this proposed program consists of classroom learning, field-based experiences, and job-embedded training to prepare candidates for the role of teacher for the visually impaired.

During early fall 2020, CREC submitted to the CSDE a proposal describing the program for teachers of the visually impaired, including program syllabi, key assessments, and faculty vitae and resumes. A CSDE-trained evaluation team consisting of content area experts reviewed the proposal to evaluate the quality of the program in the following areas:

- (1) design, scope and sequence, including coursework and fieldwork/clinical experiences;
- (2) candidate assessments, including data collection, analysis, and reporting methods;
- (3) faculty and instructor qualifications; and
- (4) program resources.

CSDE consultants also reviewed the proposal for compliance with Connecticut statutory and regulatory requirements.

The evaluation team identified some areas for improvement (AFI) for the CREC proposal and was unanimous in its decision that the proposal move forward to the CSDE Review Committee for consideration, with the requirement that the AFIs be addressed before the committee meeting. CREC submitted all required revisions to the CSDE during January 2021, to the satisfaction of the evaluation team, with the Review Committee recommending full approval for the program.

### **Recommendation and Justification**

Based upon evaluation team findings and the recommendation of the CSDE Review Committee, I recommend that the CREC educator preparation program for teachers of the visually impaired be granted full approval for the period March 3, 2021, through September 30, 2026. If approved by the CSBE, the program will begin implementation during fall 2021 and be reviewed during the CREC spring 2026 state program approval review. In the interim, the Connecticut EPP Data Dashboard will provide program evaluation data on an annual basis for all both the CREC AARC program and this new program.

### **Follow-up Activity**

If granted full approval by the CSBE, the Director of CREC will be notified immediately so that CREC may start recruiting candidates for fall 2021.

Prepared by: Katie Moirs, Ph.D., EPP Program Approval Coordinator, Talent Office

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

**ATTACHMENT A****CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Educator Preparation Program Approval Review Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Term Ending</b>
1. Megan Mackey	Central Connecticut State University	Higher Education	March 2, 2022
2. Tamika La Salle	University of Connecticut	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
3. Catherine O'Callaghan	Western Connecticut State University	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
4. Julie Sochacki	University of Hartford	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
5. Stephanie Storms	Fairfield University	Higher Education	March 2, 2022
6. Joseph Bonillo	Waterford Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
7. Thomas Danehy	Area Cooperative Educational Services	K-12	June 30, 2023
8. Sinthia Sone-Moyano	Manchester Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
9. Kevin Walston	Danbury Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
10. Paul Whyte	New Haven Public Schools	K-12	June 30, 2023
11. Michael Livingston	Capitol Region Education Council	Community	March 2, 2022
12. Shannon Marimón	Connecticut Council for Education Reform	Community	March 2, 2022