

VIII.B.

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

To Be Proposed:

March 4, 2026

Resolved, That the State Board of Education adopts the recommendation from the Connecticut State Department of Education to extend, for the 2026-27 school year only, implementation of the following temporary certification endorsements, as allowable under Sec. 10-145d-619 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Emergency Generalist, PK-8 (#201), Emergency Generalist, 4-12 (#202), and Emergency Teacher of English Language Learners, PK-12 (#204) to allow educators who continuously hold during the 2026-27 school year an appropriate teaching certificate with verified completion of the TEAM Program to be eligible for Emergency Authorization at the request of the local education agency (LEA)/district, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____, this fourth day of March, Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

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: March 4, 2026

Subject: Approval of Reauthorization of Emergency Educator Certification Endorsements 2026-27

Executive Summary

Introduction

This report provides the State Board of Education (SBE) with a rationale for the recommendation to re-adopt Emergency Educator Certification Endorsements as temporary authorizations for the 2026-27 academic year only in an effort to provide additional flexibility for school districts and other local education agencies (LEAs) to meet the unique staffing challenges presented by the ongoing teacher shortage.¹ The 2026-27 Emergency Authorization may only be issued, at the request of the LEA/district, to educators who hold an appropriate teaching certificate with verified completion of the TEAM Program.

History/Background

On March 10, 2020, Governor Lamont declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the United States and Connecticut. One of the consequential measures permitted in response to these declarations included providing for greater flexibilities in Educator Certification Endorsements.

Since the pandemic, educator vacancies and fewer students graduating from Connecticut educator preparation programs (EPP) has continued to give rise to staffing challenges for LEAs.² High levels of vacancies for certified staff members in Connecticut public schools statewide persists, and the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification (BESC) continues to trend well above pre-pandemic level requests for temporary authorizations and permits.³

The employment of appropriately certified, authorized and/or permitted educators remains crucial to the success of all students. The BESC continues to work closely with PK-12 Superintendents, Human Resources personnel and EPP personnel to implement numerous measures to allow for the continued processing of applications, expanded pathways into the

¹ EdSight: As of August 2025, 538 teacher vacancies statewide were reported, exclusive of special education.

² CT EPP Data Dashboard: From 2019-20 to 2023-24, 142 fewer teacher candidates completed a CT EPP, and 259 fewer teacher candidates who completed a CT EPP were issued an educator certification.

³ As of February 2026, 961 Emergency Endorsements have been issued since 2021 to 740 teachers.

profession, and on-going flexibilities for teacher candidates and educators to meet the needs of students.

The BESC consistently provides guidance to districts and LEAs regarding flexibility around the use of non-certified staff members and candidates enrolled in EPPs under temporary authorizations, guidance regarding the re-employment of retired educators, and strategies to utilize the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) EdSight Active Certificate Search Tool, which has provided easier access to Connecticut Educator Certification data to assist districts in strategic recruitment and hiring of staff. Additionally, in August 2020, the SBE approved Emergency Educator Endorsements for the 2020–21 school year and supported the BESC, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, to utilize Equivalency, as prescribed in Sec. 10-145d-614 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies to accept 20 months of successful service as a paraeducator to serve in lieu of the twelve credits of special education content required for temporary authorizations (Durational Shortage Area Permits and Long-Term Substitute Authorizations). Since that original approval, the SBE has renewed these Emergency Educator Endorsements in the face of ongoing teacher shortages.

Recommendation and Justification

All early indicators show the 2026–2027 academic year will prove to be another challenging year for Connecticut school districts to hire appropriately certified, authorized, and permitted educators. As such, it is recommended that the following Emergency Endorsements again be approved as “Temporary Emergency Endorsements” by the SBE for the 2026–27 school year only, as allowed under Sec. 10-145d-619 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Title 10 Education Regulations⁴.

- (1) Emergency Generalist, PK-8 (#201) and Emergency Generalist, 4-12 (#202)

The Emergency Generalist, PK-8 (#201) and Emergency Generalist, 4-12 (#202) would allow a certified educator who currently holds an appropriate teaching certificate with verified completion of the TEAM Program to teach all content/subject and grade levels within the PK-8 or 4-12 grade span, exclusive of special education and TESOL/bilingual endorsements, for the 2026-2027 school year at the request of the LEA/district.

Currently certified elementary and early childhood #002, #003, #004, #005, #013, #305, #112, and #113 holders would be eligible for Emergency #201, and current 4-12 certificate holders would be eligible for Emergency #202. Currently certified PK-12 educators and middle grades (4–8) would be eligible for either #201 or #202, depending on need.

- (2) Emergency Teacher of English Language Learners, PK-12 (#204)

⁴ Sec. 10-145d-619. In cases where existing endorsements do not cover a unique certification area, the Department may issue certificates with endorsements other than those contained in these regulations. Issuance of such unique endorsement shall be based on completion by the applicant of general, specialized and professional education clearly appropriate to the duties of the position and similar in quality, quantity and degrees to that required for other positions of comparable importance in a board of education.

The Emergency Teacher of English Language Learners, PK-12 (#204) would authorize a certified world language teacher or a bilingual or TESOL teacher who currently holds an appropriate teaching certificate with verified completion of the TEAM Program to serve as either a TESOL or bilingual education content teacher in grades PK-12 for the 2026-27 school year at the request of the LEA/district.

In each instance, the Temporary Authorization would be issued as a stand-alone authorization, valid for the remainder of the school year, with no fees associated with the processing. Status as a Temporary Authorization would allow the SBE and BESC greater control over the addition and subsequent removal (expiration) of the “Temporary Authorization.” All Emergency Endorsements issued under a Temporary Authorization would be set to expire June 30, 2027.

Districts would submit a request to the BESC to have the “Temporary Emergency Authorization” assigned to the designated educator’s Educator Identification Number (EIN) with the educator completing part one of the application and the district completing part two. This process would help ensure that the use of the Emergency Endorsement was mutually agreed to by both the educator and the requesting district. This process protects the role of the educator in the decision and this procedure encourages districts to have conversations with educators prior to requesting the Emergency Authorization. Additionally, the Emergency Authorizations offer districts with the flexibility to place certified educators in part-time and/or temporary assignments that might otherwise remain unfilled. This experience, supported by the district, may then encourage those teachers to pursue the additional endorsement area.

The BESC would re-establish the unique Emergency Endorsement codes in the Educator Database System (EDS) which would allow districts to assign the Emergency Endorsements to an educator for the 2026-27 school year to ensure compliance with both certification and Teachers Retirement Board (TRB) requirements.

Follow-up Activity

As Educator Certification Endorsements are set forth in the regulations promulgated by the State Board pursuant to its statutory authority, should the SBE approve the proposed adoption of these Temporary Educator Certification Endorsements and Emergency Endorsements, they will then be referred to the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB) pursuant to Section 10-150c(b)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes for its review and requested approval. If the CEPCB, in turn, approves the adoption of these proposed endorsements, the BESC would continue to process applications through the use of the ED 2020 form, which was developed and has continued to be used to process LEA/district requests of unique Emergency Endorsements since the 2020-21 school year.

Prepared by: Kaylan Ricciardi, Ed.D., Education Consultant, Talent Office

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

Approved by: Charles E. Hewes, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner
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