

# VIII.D.

## Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

### **To Be Proposed:**

May 13, 2026

**Resolved,** That pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-145bb(b), the State Board of Education determines that James Murphy presents a combination of education and experience that is the equivalent of the education and experience required under Section 10-145bb(b) and thereby waives the requirements set forth in C.G.S. Section 10-145bb(a) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action to issue an Initial Educator Certificate endorsed for Elementary Education, PreK–6 (#305).

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_, this thirteenth day of May, 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:** May 13, 2026

**Subject:** Consideration for Approval of Certification for James Murphy #305 Elementary Education, PreK-6

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-145bb(b) empowers the State Board of Education (SBE) to waive the certification standards otherwise set forth in statute should the SBE determine that an applicant possesses a combination of education and experience that is equivalent to such standards. Pursuant to Section 10-145bb(b), James Murphy has requested such waiver, seeking thereby an Initial Educator Certificate endorsed for Elementary Education, PreK-6 (#305). C.G.S. Section 10-145bb(b) provides:

(a) 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 may waive any of the requirements of this section and issue an initial educator certificate to any person who presents a combination of education and experience that the state board determines is the equivalent of the education and experience required under this section.

**History/Background**

For issuance of a certificate endorsed for Elementary Education, PreK-6 (#305), Connecticut Regulations require the successful completion of an approved planned program in elementary education, resulting in an institutional recommendation. Applicants must also meet the following requirements:

- (1) Hold a bachelor's degree from an approved institution;
- (2) Have a minimum of 39 semester hours of credit in general academic courses in five of the following six areas: English, natural sciences, mathematics, social studies, foreign language, and fine arts. A survey course in United States history comprised of not fewer than three semester hours of credit shall also be included;
- (3) Have completed either a content area subject-major or interdisciplinary major; and
- (4) Have a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit in professional education in a planned program of study and experience to be distributed among each of the following:
  - Foundations of education;
  - Educational psychology;
  - Curriculum and methods of teaching, and shall include six semester hours of credit in language arts;
  - Supervised observation, participation and full-time responsible student teaching in an elementary school totaling at least six but not more than 12 semester hours of credit; and
  - 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.

Furthermore, Section 10-145d-412(a)(3)(A) of the Connecticut Regulations allows an applicant who has not completed a required planned program of preparation to submit the following experience in lieu of the university recommendation:

Evidence of 20 school months of successful teaching or service in the appropriate subject area or field for which the endorsement is sought, except that substitute teaching may not be considered towards meeting this requirement, evidenced by a signed recommendation from the employing agent in the same public school system or approved nonpublic school.

Although Mr. Murphy successfully completed the coursework (GPA 3.28) for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) Teacher Residency Program (TRP) and passed the Praxis II Elementary Reading, Math, and Social Studies Subtests and the Praxis II Bridge Elementary Science Subtest, he was unable to successfully pass the Pearson Foundations of Reading Test. His Pearson Foundations of Reading Test score reports verify his highest score of 239, which misses the passing score of 240 by one point. However, a score of 239 on the Pearson Foundations of Reading Test is within one standard error of measurement (SEM) of the passing score of 240. If Pearson offered a Bridge option in Connecticut like the ETS Praxis II Tests, he would qualify for an alternative testing option. Therefore, Mr. Murphy is seeking a waiver of certification testing to be issued an Initial Educator Certificate, as authorized by C.G.S. Section 10-145bb(b).

**Justification**

Mr. Murphy holds a bachelor's degree in hospitality management (GPA 2.45) and successfully completed the CREC TRP (GPA 3.28), which included the required dyslexia-related course content and the supervised practicum component completed prior to serving under the Resident Educator Certificate (REC), as well as satisfying the Praxis II Elementary Test requirement. He has been successfully serving as a grade 6 mathematics teacher for the Norwich Public Schools under two RECs and one durational shortage area permit (DSAP) endorsed for elementary education since August 2022.

Since beginning his career in the district in 2014 as a paraprofessional, the Norwich Public Schools strongly supports his candidacy, citing his deep dedication to the profession and strong instructional skills, which contribute to him being an effective educator and role model for students. In addition, Mr. Murphy is the middle school basketball and track coach, which enables him to develop a stronger connection with the entire school community.

If Mr. Murphy's request for an Initial Educator Certificate is granted, he must meet all requirements necessary at the time of application to advance to the next level of certification, including, but not limited to, successful completion of the TEAM beginning educator induction program, a master's degree, and professional experience. Additionally, Mr. Murphy will be subject to the same supervision and performance evaluation as other certified staff.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the SBE accept the bachelor's degree, CREC TRP coursework, and successful teaching experience at Norwich Public Schools as the basis for issuance of an Initial Educator Certificate for Elementary Education, PreK-6 (#305).

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