

# IX.C.

## Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

### **To Be Proposed:**

June 1, 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 approval to the Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers of English Learners (ARCTEL) program, administered by the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), for the period October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2029, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program key assessment performance data, for the purpose of certifying graduates from the ARCTEL program, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this first day of June, 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:** June 1, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Continuing Program Approval of the Area Cooperative Educational Services,  
Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers of English Learners Program

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

This report presents evaluation findings for the Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers of English Learners (ARCTEL) program continuing approval review conducted during Spring 2022. In addition, the Commissioner's recommendation for continuing approval of ARCTEL is presented.

**History/Background**

Section 10-145b(c)(1)(B)(iv) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the establishment of alternate route to certification (ARC) programs that are approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE). Pursuant to this statute, the CSBE approved the Alternate Route to Certification for English Learners (ARCTEL) program in September 2007.

The ARCTEL program was created as a response to the severe shortage of qualified, certified teachers in the areas of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Bilingual Education in Connecticut. The ARCTEL provides an opportunity for selected educators who possess a Connecticut teaching certificate and have teaching experience to acquire the proficiencies necessary to meet state and national standards, and Connecticut certification requirements, so that they may add the TESOL and Bilingual Education endorsements to their current CT teaching certification.

Based on the work of the CSBE-appointed Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC), Connecticut transitioned to a new model for educator preparation provider (EPP) program approval, including ARC programs. Under this new state approval model, ARCTEL is on a seven-year approval cycle, and for continuing approval, required to submit to the CSDE an Institutional Report that describes any program modifications (e.g., new courses) and presents program information relative to four evaluation categories:

1. Program Curriculum and Clinical Experiences
2. Candidate Assessment and Performance Data
3. Program Faculty/Instructors
4. Program Resources

Additionally, ARCTEL will be monitored annually by the CSDE using performance data from program key assessments.

ARCTEL submitted to the CSDE for review its first Institutional Report based on the new program approval model during spring 2022. Report data from key assessments indicate that program candidates are mostly at or above target performance for program key assessments measuring content knowledge, and pedagogical knowledge and skills, aligned to the Connecticut English Language Proficiency (CLEP) Standards, which emphasize the language skills necessary for student success in grade level content areas, and college and career readiness. Instruction and assignments are aligned to the Standards for Initial TESOL PK-12 Teacher Preparation Programs (2018) with three program phases organized around the five standards of 1. Knowledge about Language; 2. ELS in the Sociocultural context; 3. Planning and implementation instruction; 4. Assessment and evaluation; and 5. Professionalism and leadership.

Other report highlights include the description of remediation strategies to support candidate learning and to ensure that candidates reach proficiency standards required by national standards; and key program changes based on candidate performance data that have strengthened the alignment between national standards, core curriculum and key assessments.

The CSDE Review Committee (Attachment A) has reviewed the evaluation report and unanimously recommended full continuing approval, per CT statutory and regulatory requirements (Attachment B) for ARCTEL for seven years.

### **Recommendation and Justification**

I recommend that ARCTEL be granted full continuing approval for the period October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2029, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program key assessment performance data.

### **Follow-up Activity**

ARCTEL will submit to the CSDE an annual progress report that describes any program modifications and presents candidate performance data from program key assessments by September 30, 2023.

Prepared by: Lauren Tafrate, Program Approval Coordinator  
Talent Office

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

**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 <a href="mailto:mackey@ccsu.edu">mackey@ccsu.edu</a>	Higher Education	March 31, 2025
2. Tamika La Salle	University of Connecticut <a href="mailto:tamika.la_salle@uconn.edu">tamika.la_salle@uconn.edu</a>	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
3. Catherine O'Callaghan	Western Connecticut State University <a href="mailto:ocallaghanc@wcsu.edu">ocallaghanc@wcsu.edu</a>	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
4. Julie Sochacki	University of Hartford <a href="mailto:SOCHACKI@hartford.edu">SOCHACKI@hartford.edu</a>	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
5. Mel Horton	Sacred Heart University <a href="mailto:hortonm3@sacredheart.edu">hortonm3@sacredheart.edu</a>	Higher Education	New member beginning June, 2022
6. Joseph Bonillo	Waterford Public Schools <a href="mailto:jbouillo@waterfordschools.org">jbouillo@waterfordschools.org</a>	K-12	June 30, 2023
7. Thomas Danehy*	Area Cooperative Educational Services <a href="mailto:TDanehy@aces.org">TDanehy@aces.org</a>	K-12	June 30, 2023
8. Sinthia Sone-Moyano	Manchester Public Schools <a href="mailto:sinthias@mpspride.org">sinthias@mpspride.org</a> 860-647-3451	K-12	June 30, 2023
9. Kevin Walston	Danbury Public Schools <a href="mailto:walstk@danbury.k12.us">walstk@danbury.k12.us</a> 203.595.1404 (cell)	K-12	June 30, 2023
10. Paul Whyte	New Haven Public Schools <a href="mailto:PAUL.WHYTE@new-haven.k12.ct.us">PAUL.WHYTE@new-haven.k12.ct.us</a>	K-12	June 30, 2023
11. Camille Cooper	Yale Child Study Center <a href="mailto:Camille.cooper@yale.edu">Camille.cooper@yale.edu</a>	Community	New Member beginning June, 2022
12. Shannon Marimon	Connecticut Council for Education Reform <a href="mailto:shannon.marimon@readyct.org">shannon.marimon@readyct.org</a>	Community	March 31, 2025

\*Mr. Danehy abstained this vote due to conflict of interest.

**Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for Educator Preparation Program Approval  
Section 10-145d-9(g)**

**Board action**

After reviewing the recommendation of the Review Committee, the Commissioner shall make one or more recommendations to the Board. Based on the Commissioner's recommendation, the Board shall take one of the following actions.

**(1) For programs requesting continuing approval:**

- (A) Grant full program approval for five years, or for a period of time to bring the program into alignment with the five year approval cycle. The Board may require that an interim report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (B) Grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (C) Grant probationary approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if significant and far-reaching non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Deny approval.

**(2) For new programs in institutions which have current approved programs:**

- (A) Grant full program approval for a period of time to bring the new program into the five year approval cycle of all other programs offered by the institution. The Board may require that a written report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (B) Grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.

- (C) Grant probationary approval not to exceed three years, if significant and far-reaching non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Deny approval.

**(3) For new programs starting in institutions without other approved programs:**

- (A) Grant program approval for two years. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, after two semester of operation a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in implementing the new program. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (B) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant full program approval for three years. The Board may require that a written report be submitted to the Department, on a date set by the Board, prior to the end of the approval period.
- (C) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant provisional approval for a time period not to exceed three years, if substantial non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board may require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (D) Following the on-site visit after two years of operation, grant probationary approval for up to three years, if significant and far-reaching non-compliance with current standards is identified. The institution shall submit to the Review Committee, on a date set by the Board, a written report which addresses the professional education unit's progress in meeting the standards which were not fully met. The Board shall require an on-site visit in addition to this report.
- (E) Deny approval.