

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO BE PROPOSED:

July 1, 2015

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants an extension of approval for educator preparation programs scheduled for continuing approval visits during the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and imposes policy restrictions on new program proposal applications, limiting them to only those that can demonstrate an enrollment base of 10 or more candidates per year and can specifically address the Connecticut State Department of Education designated shortage areas as reported by the Department in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this first day of July, Two Thousand Fifteen.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

DATE: July 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Educator Preparation Program Approval Extension and New Program Proposal Review and Evaluation Policy Restrictions

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

The Department is putting forth for consideration by the State Board of Education (SBE) a request for the extension of SBE approvals for educator preparation programs scheduled for continuing approval visits during the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

Additionally, the Department is seeking policy restrictions on new program proposal applications, limiting them to only those that can demonstrate an enrollment base of 10 or more candidates per year and can specifically address Department designated shortage areas as reported by the Department in each of the identified academic years outlined above. This report presents a rationale for these requests.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT/BACKGROUND

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-145d and related regulations, all educator preparation programs in Connecticut must be initially approved, and then subsequently approved, within a five-year cycle by the State Board of Education (SBE) in order to operate, admit candidates to a program, and recommend candidates for certification.

Current regulations require that the state program approval process be based, in part, on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards. However, Connecticut preparation programs need not be NCATE-accredited. Preparation institutions may choose to seek national accreditation through NCATE in addition to SBE approval, but it is not required.

Currently, there are 23 SBE-approved educator preparation institutions or alternate route programs in Connecticut. Fifteen of these are considered traditional educator preparation programs. Eleven of the 15 traditional educator preparation programs in Connecticut have sought and been awarded national accreditation through NCATE, in addition to state approval. All eight alternate route programs are state approved only and have not sought national accreditation.

In July 2013, NCATE merged with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) to consolidate into one newly-formed accrediting body, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), which has recently released new national accreditation

standards for both initial and advanced preparation programs. CAEP is currently involved in the development and piloting of new accreditation procedures based on these standards, with full implementation targeted for fall 2017.

In consultation with the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC), and given the vision for a new program approval system in Connecticut, the Department is currently developing new, state-based educator preparation program approval processes, including both qualitative and quantitative accountability measures. The development and piloting of both a new state program approval process and a new national accreditation process between now and the targeted launch in the fall of 2017 present several practical challenges to Connecticut programs preparing for either: (1) continuing approval visits; or (2) new program proposal applications. Therefore, the Department recommends:

- a development and piloting period of the new components of the program approval system during academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, prior to full implementation which is targeted for fall 2017;
- extension of existing SBE approvals for the following institutions that would otherwise be required to participate in continuing approval visits during 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, with such visits recommencing in fall of 2017:

INSTITUTION	SCHEDULED VISIT DATE	EXTENSION VISIT DATE	CURRENT APPROVAL STATUS
Alternate Route to Certification	Spring 2016	Fall 2017	Full Approval to 9/30/2016
Albertus Magnus College	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Full Approval to 9/30/2017
Connecticut College	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Full Approval to 9/30/2017
University of Bridgeport	Spring 2017	Spring 2018	Full Approval to 9/30/2017
University of Saint Joseph	Spring 2017	Spring 2018	Full Approval to 9/30/2017

- development and dissemination of an updated schedule of continuing approval visits recommencing in fall 2017 to ensure a more evenly distributed schedule of visits; and
- policy restrictions on new program proposal applications limiting them to only those that can demonstrate an enrollment base of 10 or more candidates per year and specifically address the following designated shortage areas:
 - world languages, 7-12;
 - bilingual education, PK-12;
 - school library and media specialist;
 - speech and language pathologist;
 - technology education, PK-12;
 - comprehensive special education, K-12;
 - science, 7-12;
 - teachers of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), PK-12;
 - intermediate administrator; and
 - mathematics, 7-12.

Programs currently on either provisional or probationary approval will continue to be monitored by the Department, and focused visits for these programs will be conducted as previously directed by the SBE.

RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION

Based on the goals of EPAC and transitional challenges as outlined above, I recommend granting an extension of SBE approvals for educator preparation programs scheduled for continuing approval visits during the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, and imposing policy restrictions on new program proposal applications, limiting them to only those that can demonstrate an enrollment base of 10 or more candidates per year and specifically address shortage areas as reported by the Department in each of the identified academic years outlined above. The extension will allow the Department to focus on the development and piloting of a new, more rigorous, state-based program approval process that is aligned to EPAC principles and recommendations, as well as new national accreditation (CAEP) requirements.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY

CSDE will communicate this decision to all educator preparation programs, including a listing of the 2015-2016 designated shortage areas.

Beginning fall 2017, all Connecticut educator preparation programs will be held accountable to the new state educator preparation program approval process for both continuing approval and new program proposals. Programs currently on either provisional or probationary approval will continue to be monitored by the Department, and focused visits for these programs conducted as previously directed by the SBE.

All educator preparation programs will be notified of the new policy for approving new programs during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 years. Additionally, an updated schedule of continuing approval visits recommencing in 2017 will be developed and disseminated to all educator preparation programs by August 2015.

Prepared by: _____
Katie Toohey, Ph.D., Program Approval Coordinator
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

Reviewed by: _____
Nancy L. Pugliese, J.D., Chief
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

Approved by: _____
Sarah J. Barzee, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer
Talent Office