

# IX.A.

## Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

**To Be Proposed:**  
**October 4, 2023**

**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 Charter Oak State College (COSC), Early Childhood Education, Alternate Route to Certification (ECE ARC) Program, for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2030, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program key assessment performance data, for the purpose of certifying graduates from COSC ECE ARC, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this fourth day of October, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

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:** October 4, 2023

**Subject:** Continuing Program Approval of Charter Oak State College Educator Preparation Program

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

This report presents evaluation findings for the Charter Oak State College Early Childhood Education Alternate Route to Certification Program (COSC ECE ARC) continuing approval review conducted during spring 2023. In addition, the Commissioner's recommendation for continuing approval of ECE ARC is presented.

**History/Background**

COSC offers one educator preparation program. Section 10-145b(c)(1)(B)(iv) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the establishment of alternate route to certification programs (ARC) that are approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE). Pursuant to this statute, the CSBE first approved the Early Childhood Education Alternate Route to Certification (ECE ARC) in 2008. The Early Childhood Education, Alternate Route to Certification (ECE ARC) program enables individuals who demonstrate a commitment to the field and possess a solid foundation in either early childhood education or a related field to become qualified to serve as an early childhood educator for birth through K (#112 teaching endorsement) in a variety of settings, such as public preschools, birth-to-three early intervention service organizations, and public school kindergartens. ECE ARC is a one-year, intensive program during which candidates receive a minimum of 345 contact hours of instruction; participate in directed field experiences, including a four-week internship; and complete coursework, assignments and various assessments across eight training modules.

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, COSC ECE ARC is on a seven-year approval cycle, and for continuing approval, required to submit to the Connecticut State Department of Education (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

COSC ECE ARC submitted to the CSDE for review its first Institutional Report based on the new program approval model during spring 2023. A review of the Institution Report verified that COSC ECE ARC is meeting all evaluation standards. 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 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAYEC) and Council for Exceptional (CEC) Children Initial Practice Standards for Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Special Educators. Key Assessments are reviewed annually with faculty and instructors to provide opportunities to have questions answered and to make any necessary updates to assessments. Instruction and assignments are aligned to the CSDE Regulations as well as the NAYEC and CEC standards.

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 COSC ECE ARC for seven years. Additionally, COSC ECE ARC will be monitored annually by the CSDE using performance data from program key assessments.

**Recommendation and Justification**

I recommend that COSC ECE ARC be granted full continuing approval for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2030, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program key assessment performance data.

**Follow-up Activity**

COSC ECE ARC will submit to the CSDE an annual progress report that describes any program modifications and presents candidate performance data from program key assessments by November 30, 2024.

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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
Vacant		Higher Education	
2. Catherine O'Callaghan	Western Connecticut State University <a href="mailto:ocallaghanc@wcsu.edu">ocallaghanc@wcsu.edu</a>	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
3. Julie Sochacki	University of Hartford <a href="mailto:SOCHACKI@hartford.edu">SOCHACKI@hartford.edu</a>	Higher Education	June 30, 2023
4. Mel Horton	Sacred Heart University <a href="mailto:hortonm3@sacredheart.edu">hortonm3@sacredheart.edu</a>	Higher Education	March 31, 2025
5. Joseph Bonillo	Waterford Public Schools <a href="mailto:jbonillo@waterfordschools.org">jbonillo@waterfordschools.org</a>	K-12	June 30, 2023
6. Thomas Danehy	Area Cooperative Educational Services <a href="mailto:TDanehy@aces.org">TDanehy@aces.org</a>	K-12	June 30, 2023
7. Vacant		K-12	
8. 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
9. 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
10. Camille Cooper	Yale Child Study Center <a href="mailto:Camille.cooper@yale.edu">Camille.cooper@yale.edu</a>	Community	March 31, 2025
11. Shannon Marimón	ReadyCT <a href="mailto:shannon.marimon@readyct.org">shannon.marimon@readyct.org</a>	Community	March 31, 2025

**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<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Seven years to align with CAEP accreditation cycle.

- (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 semesters 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.