

IX.A.

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

**To Be Proposed:
October 12, 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 continuing approval to Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) for the period October 12, 2022, through October 31, 2029, until ECSU's 2028 CAEP site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from ECSU in the following areas:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
Early Childhood Education	N- 3	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History and Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Physical Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate

*Pursuant to section 10-145d (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes, on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this 12th day of October, 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 : October 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Continuing Educator Preparation Provider Program Approval: Eastern Connecticut State University

Executive Summary

Introduction

Per Connecticut legislation (Special Act No. 16-22) and State Board of Education (SBE) policy, all Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) must become a Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) partner and become nationally accredited through CAEP. Additionally, per the SBE as of October 2021, Connecticut uses accreditation decisions based on CAEP accreditation visits to determine state continuing approval status for Connecticut EPPs. During fall 2021, Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) hosted its first CAEP visit to determine continuing national accreditation and state program approval. This report provides a summary of accreditation findings and the CAEP accreditation decision for ECSU based on the fall 2021 visit, including the Commissioner's recommendation for continuing approval.

History/Background

Located in Willimantic, Connecticut, ECSU is a public, liberal arts institution within the Connecticut State University (CSU) system. Originally established as the Willimantic State Normal School in 1889, ECSU began expanding its programmatic offerings in the mid-1960s to include the study of liberal arts and sciences, while holding firm to its roots in teacher education. In 1998, the CSU system significantly refined ECSU's core mission, including enlarging its role as a regional, undergraduate, liberal arts and science-based institution. Today, ECSU academic programming includes more than 35 undergraduate and graduate majors in the arts and sciences and multiple professional programs across three divisions (School of Arts and Sciences; School of Education and Professional Studies; and School of Continuing Education). Enrollment for fall 2021 was over 4,000 students, with the majority of students being full-time, undergraduate students.

ECSU's professional education unit includes the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Physical Education, both housed within the School of Education and Professional Studies. The unit is relatively small, serving approximately 450 candidates annually across all programs and consisting of 20 full-time faculty members. The unit is also supported by 27 adjunct faculty members. The Health and Physical Education Department offers a baccalaureate program leading to initial licensure in physical education. The Education Department offers baccalaureate and master's level programs leading to initial licensure in early childhood education, elementary education, and secondary education (biology, English, environmental earth science, history/social studies, and mathematics). Additionally, the department offers non-certification programs for advanced candidates in early childhood education, elementary

education, secondary education, educational technology, reading and language arts, and science education.

Eastern Connecticut State University, previously nationally accredited through the now retired National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), hosted its first CAEP accreditation visit during fall 2021. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) received the CAEP Action Report [Action Report](#) pertaining to the fall 2021 accreditation visit on May 27, 2022. As indicated in the report, CAEP has granted Eastern Connecticut State University accreditation for initial programs for seven years, in alignment with the CAEP accreditation visit cycle. No Areas for Improvement or Stipulations were identified in this report.

Once CAEP Action Reports are received, the CSDE Review Committee (Attachment A) meets to review the report and makes a recommendation to the Commissioner of Education relative to continuing approval of preparation programs based upon Connecticut educator preparation program approval regulations (Attachment B). On June 17, 2022, the CSDE Review Committee reviewed the CAEP action report and unanimously recommended full continuing approval for the period of October 12, 2022, through October 31, 2029.

Recommendation and Justification

I am recommending full continuing approval for Eastern Connecticut State University's educator preparation programs at the initial level for the period October 12, 2022, through October 31, 2029, due to ECSU's CAEP accreditation status based on a fall 2021 accreditation visit. Based on the CAEP seven-year visit cycle, ECSU's next CAEP accreditation visit is scheduled for fall 2028. The October 31, 2029, state approval deadline allows time for the CSDE to receive the final CAEP Action Report based on the fall 2028 visit and prepare a report for the SBE.

Follow-up Activity

If the SBE grants full approval for Eastern Connecticut State University's educator preparation programs, the Talent Office will immediately communicate ECSU's approval status with the university leadership.

Prepared by: Lauren Tafrate, EPP 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**

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