

VI.B

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
November 4, 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 filed prior to July 1, 2017, 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's designated shortage areas as reported by the Department in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, or those that, in the judgement of the Commissioner, demonstrate the potential to advance other priorities of the State Board of Education and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____, this fourth day of November, Two Thousand Fifteen.

Signed: _____
Dr. 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: November 4, 2015

SUBJECT: Amendment to Prior Action to Authorize Commissioner to Review Applications for New Educator Preparation Programs

Executive Summary

Introduction

On July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education (SBE) granted an extension of approval for educator preparation programs scheduled for continuing approval visits during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, and imposed policy restrictions on new educator preparation program proposal applications, limiting them to those that can demonstrate an enrollment base of 10 or more candidates per year and specifically address designated shortage areas as reported by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to the U.S. Department of Education. These policy restrictions would be in effect during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years. Since the July 1, 2015, meeting, the CSDE has received requests from educator preparation programs requesting a waiver from this policy restriction. Accordingly, the CSDE is seeking flexibility on the previous resolution to allow the Commissioner the discretion to review waiver requests for new educator preparation programs as they are submitted throughout the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years. The educator preparation programs would then be able to submit new program proposals for review by the CSDE.

History/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 by the State Board of Education (SBE) every five years in order to operate, admit candidates, and recommend candidates for certification. Given the changes taking place at the national level¹, the CSDE sought a development and piloting period of the revised program approval system during academic years 2015-16 and 2016-17. This development period allows the Talent Office, in consultation with the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC), to revise the educator preparation regulations, as well as the state's program review and approval process. On July 1, 2015, the SBE passed a resolution allowing policy restrictions during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years on new educator preparation program proposal applications, limiting them to only those that can demonstrate enrollment of 10 or more candidates per year and specifically address designated shortage areas as reported by the CSDE to the U.S. Department of Education.

Since the July 1, 2015, resolution was approved, the CSDE has received requests from educator preparation programs that are interested in submitting a new program proposal application to the CSDE for review and approval, but the new program does not meet the criteria outlined in the July 1, 2015, resolution. However, in some cases, the proposed programs may demonstrate the potential to meet other critical needs in educator preparation and recruitment or may meet the

¹ At the national level, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) has 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).

specific needs of the state’s Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). For example, in September 2015, Fairfield University notified the CSDE of its desire to submit a new program proposal to prepare up to 10 Fellows to be certified in Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts 1-12 (102 certification) with a focus on serving students in the highest need districts, specifically: New Haven, Bridgeport, East Haven, West Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, and Danbury. The 10 Fellows are fully supported by foundation funds from the Anne E. Fowler Foundation and the Grossman Foundation. In this instance, Fairfield University has launched a pilot phase of the program, preparing 10 teachers from the identified districts during the 2015-16 year. These candidates will be awarded a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) but currently will not be eligible for certification. Fairfield University would like to seek approval to operate the 102 certification program with a target start date of fall 2016. As this program is designed to meet the needs of some of Connecticut’s highest need Alliance Districts, the CSDE believes it is advisable to consider Fairfield’s request. Consequently, we have reconsidered our initial recommendation to the Board regarding the impact of the two-year policy restrictions. The approval process would follow current educator preparation regulations.

Recommendation and Justification

Aligned with the broader goals of the CSDE and given unique situations, such as the Fairfield example outlined above, I request that the Board amend its prior action by granting the Commissioner discretionary authority to consider requests for waivers to the policy restrictions on a case-by-case basis as they are submitted during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 years. While the CSDE would continue to impose policy restrictions on new program proposal applications, limiting them to only those that can demonstrate enrollment of 10 or more candidates per year and specifically address shortage areas, it would allow educator preparation programs to submit waiver requests to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Follow-up Activity

The CSDE will communicate the amended policy to all educator preparation programs. This communication will convey that programs requesting a waiver to the aforementioned criteria for new program proposals during the two-year development period will be required to submit to the Commissioner of Education a detailed explanation outlining how their proposed program meets a demonstrated need(s) of Connecticut’s highest need districts, inclusive of shortage areas specific to those districts, and/or addresses the Board’s goal of increasing the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of Connecticut’s education workforce. The Commissioner will review each request to determine whether a waiver will be granted thereby authorizing review of the new program proposal by staff in the Bureau of Certification and Educator Standards.

Prepared by: _____
Shannon M. Marimón, Division Director
Bureau of Educator Effectiveness and Professional Learning

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