

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

The Legislation and Policy Development Committee
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 -- 1:00 p.m.
State Office Building, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, Connecticut

Draft Minutes

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee [“LPDC”] met in person on February 11, 2026.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Bonnie E. Burr called the meeting to order at 1:05. In addition to Ms. Burr, also present at the meeting were Committee Members Kristen A. Record, Seth D. Zimmerman, and Paula S. Gilberto. Joining the Board members from the CSDE were: Kaylan Ricciardi, Unit Coordinator/Education Consultant; Julianne Frost, Education Consultant/Compliance Coordinator; Karen Colebut, Education Staff Assistant/CEPCB Administrator; and Michael McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs. Also present was Jen Rodriguez, Chair, Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Record moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, approval of the December 3, 2025, and January 14, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Presentation – Adoption of CEPCB’s 2026 Legislative Proposals

Ms. Rodriguez began by discussing the CEPCB’s amended proposal pertaining to the potential issuance of initial certifications via alternate routes. She explained the statutory amendment that this proposal would effectuate would clarify that the current alternate-route programs for obtaining an initial educator certificate could include student teaching and residency as well as service under a ninety-day certificate. This proposal would also leave in place the State Board’s statutory right to waive initial certification requirements in cases in which the Board determined that the applicants possessed equivalent education and experience. Ms. Frost then spoke to the purpose of this proposal, and after further discussion, Ms. Record moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, that the Committee refer the CEPCB’s proposal to the full Board with a favorable recommendation.

Ms. Rodriguez then raised a new CEPCB legislative proposal that would create an annual scholarship of up to \$10,000 for teachers pursuing professional certification or cross-endorsements in shortage areas. Attorney McKeon noted that such funds were not included in Governor Lamont’s proposed budget, and thus the State Board would be unable to approve this proposal. Ms. Rodriguez then asked whether the CSDE could provide the CEPCB with the budgetary timeline so that in the future, proposals such as this could be raised prior to the finalization of the next biennial budget. Ms. Record then moved to table this proposal, and Ms. Gilberto seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The CEPCB's third, and final legislative proposal would empower the Commissioner of Education to reissue an initial educator certificate for ten years minus the time already served to any person who had previously held and served under a certificate for less than ten years. This proposal, if adopted, would enable prior certified teaching experience to be credited while still maintaining certification eligibility requirements. Dr. Ricciardi advised the CSDE previously took this approach, but it was then phased out by legislation. This proposed legislative amendment, however, would honor prior teaching service time and would be a positive measure in increasing the educator workforce. Ms. Gilberto then moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, that the Committee refer the CEPCB's proposal to the full Board with a favorable recommendation.

IV. Presentation – Adoption of CEPCB's Proposed Revision and Reinstatement of Regulations

Ms. Rodriguez began reviewing a number of regulations that the CEPCB was proposing be revised and reinstated as opposed to sunset pursuant to Section 51 of Public Act 24-41. These regulations were all originally promulgated to implement Section 10-145d. As such, they all have the 10-145d- "prefix" and thus each regulation was referred to by its respective section number, such as, for example, 412, 413, and 421. Ms. Rodriguez discussed the CEPCB's proposed revision of Sections 412(a)(B)(4) and 412(b)(1). Ms. Record raised concerns with the proposed wording of Section 412(b)(1), and after some discussion, the LPDC requested a slight revision of that subsection, to which Ms. Rodriguez agreed on behalf of the CEPCB. Attorney McKeon requested that Dr. Ricciardi and Ms. Frost share their thoughts regarding the proposed Section 412 revisions, and Dr. Ricciardi suggested some revisions of the language in Section 412(a)(B)(4), to which Ms. Rodriguez agreed. Ms. Gilberto then moved, and Ms. Record seconded, that the Committee refer the CEPCB's proposal to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rodriguez then discussed the CEPCB's proposed revision of Section 413. Dr. Ricciardi spoke in favor of this Section 413 emendation, noting that it would be particularly helpful for educators coming into Connecticut from other countries. Dr. Zimmerman then moved, and Ms. Record seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ricciardi also spoke in favor of the proposed revision to 419, after which Dr. Zimmerman moved, and Ms. Gilberto seconded that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

With respect to the CEPCB's proposed revision of Section 421(b)(3)(B), Ms. Frost and Dr. Ricciardi recommend a minor change, and, with that amendment – and Ms. Rodriguez's concurrence -- Ms. Gilberto moved, and Ms. Record seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal to the full Board with a favorable recommendation.

After additional, lengthy discussion regarding the CEPCB's remaining proposed revisions to the regulations, the Committee took the following action:

Dr. Zimmerman moved, and Ms. Gilberto seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal regarding Section 423 to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Record moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal regarding Section 426 to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gilberto moved, and Ms. Record seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal regarding Section 427 -- as amended by the Committee in concurrence with Ms. Rodriguez -- to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gilberto moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's additional proposal regarding Section 427 to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Record moved, and Ms. Gilberto seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal regarding Section 424 -- as amended by the Committee in concurrence with Ms. Rodriguez -- to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Record moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, that the Committee refer CEPCB's proposal regarding Section 433 to the full Board with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Record moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, that the CEPCB's proposal regarding Section 615 be tabled to enable Ms. Rodriguez to bring the Committee's suggested modifications to this proposal back to the CEPCB for its review. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Zimmerman then moved, and Ms. Gilberto seconded, that the Committee refer to the Full Board with a favorable recommendation the CEPCB's proposals regarding the remain regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rodriguez advised that she would be bringing back to the LPDC at its March 4, 2026, meeting the CEPCB's position with respect to Section 615 and will also be sharing a CEPCB legislative proposal.

There being no further business before the Committee, Ms. Gilberto moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 1:51.