

**Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board
Hartford, CT**

To: Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board

From: Jennifer Rodriguez

Date: July 27, 2026

Subject: Adoption of Amendment to Section 10-145d-619 – Endorsement for Education Positions Having Unique Requirements Peculiar to an Assignment

Establishing a Time Limit on Unique Endorsements Issued Under Section 10-145d-619 and Requiring Formal Rulemaking to Continue Them

Introduction:

Section 10-145d-619 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies authorizes the Department of Education to issue certificates with endorsements that are not otherwise listed in the regulations, when an applicant's assignment involves unique requirements not covered by an existing endorsement area. As currently written, the regulation places no time limit on this authority: once the Department begins issuing a unique endorsement, it may continue to do so indefinitely without that endorsement ever being formally adopted through the regulations process. This proposal amends Section 10-145d-619 to impose a three-year limit on the issuance of certificates under a given unique endorsement, after which the Department must initiate formal rulemaking under Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes to continue issuing that endorsement.

Rationale for Adopting this Proposal:

Unique endorsements issued under Section 10-145d-619 do not go through the public notice, comment, and legislative review procedures that apply to every other endorsement area in the regulations. Without a time limit, an endorsement created to address a single, novel assignment can become a permanent, unreviewed feature of the certification system, with no obligation for the Department to subject its standards, quality, and continued necessity to the scrutiny that Chapter 54 rulemaking provides.

This proposed approach is consistent with existing Connecticut administrative practice for time-limited agency action taken outside the standard rulemaking process. Under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an emergency regulation adopted under Connecticut General Statutes § 4-168(g) is effective for no longer than 180 days, and it ceases to be effective on its expiration date if the agency has not completed the steps required to adopt a permanent regulation in that time. Connecticut's eRegulations System likewise maintains a distinct category for "Operational Policies," defined as policies that remain in effect only until a regulation is adopted, reflecting a general expectation across state agencies that interim or ad hoc authority is a bridge to formal rulemaking, not a substitute for it.

A three-year period was selected because it is consistent with other educator certification pathways that provide temporary authorization while permanent certification requirements are being completed or developed. For example, the Department's Durational Shortage Area Permit (DSAP) regulations allow for renewals for up to three years while an educator completes certification requirements. Similarly, a three-year period provides sufficient time for the Department to evaluate whether a unique endorsement reflects an ongoing statewide need and, if so, to develop and adopt a permanent endorsement through the Chapter 54 regulatory process.

A three-year window gives the Department sufficient time to evaluate implementation, assess whether a unique endorsement represents a continuing statewide need, and develop an evidentiary record to support a well-designed regulation, while ensuring that unique endorsements do not persist indefinitely, or become de facto permanent, without undergoing public notice, comment, and legislative review. Certificates issued before the effective date of this amendment would remain valid and renewable in accordance with the grandfathering provisions below. No currently certified educator would be adversely affected.

Alignment with Statutory Objectives ([C.G.S. §10-150c\(b\)](#))

Many of the endorsement areas established under Section 10-145d-619 predate the creation of the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. As a result, those endorsement areas were never subject to the Board's review. This proposal ensures that future endorsement areas requiring long-term use are considered through the Board's statutory review process, while preserving the Department's ability to respond quickly to unique staffing needs.

- **Ensures accountability of educator preparation programs**, for both quality training experiences and candidate outcomes, by requiring that unique endorsements ultimately pass through the same public notice, comment, and review process as every other endorsement area.
- **Improves data transparency and equity**, including addressing disparities in educator distribution and vacancies, by preventing endorsements from operating indefinitely outside the regulations where they are not readily visible or reviewable.
- **Builds streamlined, flexible pathways**, in the educator profession grounded in a commitment to educator effectiveness, by preserving the Department's ability to respond quickly to unique staffing needs while still routing durable endorsement areas into the formal regulatory framework.

Conclusion:

The Board is asked to adopt the attached amendment to Section 10-145d-619, which limits the issuance of certificates under a unique endorsement to three years from the date the endorsement is first issued and requires the Department to initiate Chapter 54 rulemaking to continue issuing that endorsement beyond that period.

Prepared by: Jennifer Rodriguez

Attachment(s)

Proposed Amendment Option A	Proposed Amendment Option B
<u>Proposed Amendment to Section 10-145d-619</u> Sec. 10-145d-619. Endorsement for education positions having unique requirements peculiar to an assignment In cases where existing endorsements do not cover a unique certification area, the Department may issue certificates with endorsements other than those contained in these regulations. Issuance of such unique endorsement shall be based on completion by the applicant of general, specialized and professional education clearly appropriate to the duties of the position and similar in quality, quantity and degrees to that required for other positions of comparable importance in a board of education. <u>(a) The Department may issue certificates under these circumstances with such unique endorsement for a period not to exceed three years from the date on which such unique endorsement is first issued, provided this limitation shall apply only to unique endorsements first issued on or after the effective date of this amendment.</u>	<u>Proposed Amendment to Section 10-145d-619</u> Sec. 10-145d-619. Endorsement for education positions having unique requirements peculiar to an assignment In cases where existing endorsements do not cover a unique certification area, the Department may issue certificates with endorsements other than those contained in these regulations. Issuance of such unique endorsement shall be based on completion by the applicant of general, specialized and professional education clearly appropriate to the duties of the position and similar in quality, quantity and degrees to that required for other positions of comparable importance in a board of education. <u>(a) Term of unique endorsement. A unique endorsement first issued on or after the effective date of this amendment shall be valid for three years from the date of first issuance and shall not be renewed except as provided in this section.</u>

(b) For any unique endorsement issued pursuant to this section prior to the effective date of this amendment, such endorsement shall remain valid and renewable in accordance with the provisions governing the underlying certificate. The limitations established by this section shall apply only to unique endorsements first issued on or after the effective date of this amendment.

(c) If the Department seeks to continue issuing certificates with such unique endorsement beyond such three-year period, the Department shall initiate proceedings to adopt such endorsement as a regulation in accordance with chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(d) If the Department has initiated such proceedings not later than six months prior to the expiration of such three-year period, the Department may continue issuing certificates with such unique endorsement pending final action on such regulation.

(e) If such regulation is not adopted, and proceedings to adopt such regulation have not been initiated within the timeframe set forth in this section the Department shall cease issuing new certificates with such unique endorsement upon the expiration of such three-year period, provided any certificate issued with such unique endorsement prior to such expiration date shall remain valid until its own expiration date.

(b) Endorsements issued before this amendment. Any educator holding a certificate bearing a unique endorsement issued under this section before the effective date of this amendment shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of this section. Such endorsement shall remain valid and renewable in accordance with the provisions governing the underlying certificate. The discontinuance of issuance of a unique endorsement under this section, or the failure to adopt such endorsement by regulation under chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes, shall not affect the validity or renewal of such endorsement.

(c) Expiration. A unique endorsement first issued on or after the effective date of this amendment shall expire at the conclusion of the period established in subsection (a) unless an endorsement covering the assignment has been adopted pursuant to chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes. This subsection shall not apply to endorsements grandfathered under subsection (b).

(d) Conversion upon adoption. Where an endorsement covering an assignment for which a unique endorsement was issued is adopted as a regulation under chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes, an individual holding such unique endorsement and employed in such assignment shall be eligible to receive the adopted endorsement. Successful service in such assignment under the unique endorsement shall be accepted in satisfaction of the experience and preparation requirements of the adopted endorsement.

(e) Completion of requirements. An individual who does not qualify for an endorsement under subsection (d) of this section, and who presents evidence of enrollment in a planned program of preparation leading to an endorsement for which such individual would qualify, may continue to serve under the unique endorsement until completion of such program, provided such period shall not exceed three years.

(f) Equivalency. An individual holding a unique endorsement under this section

	<u>may apply for an existing endorsement through equivalency in accordance with section 10-145d-614 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Department shall, upon request, identify for such individual any endorsement for which such individual's preparation and experience may qualify.</u> <u>(g) Continuation in assignment. An individual employed in the assignment for which a unique endorsement was issued as of the effective date of this amendment, whose endorsement expires without an endorsement covering such assignment having been adopted, may continue to serve in such assignment under such endorsement for so long as such individual remains continuously employed in such assignment by the same board of education, provided such period shall not exceed six years from the effective date of this amendment. Such individual shall, during such period, pursue an endorsement under subsection (f) or (g) of this section where such an endorsement is available to such individual. Such endorsement shall not be valid for any other assignment or employing agent and shall not be reissued once such continuous employment ends.</u> <u>(h) Construction. Subsections (d) through (h) of this section shall not be construed to extend the term of a unique endorsement beyond six years from the effective date of this amendment.</u>
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Note: Underlined text is new language proposed for addition. No existing language is proposed for deletion in this amendment.