

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

To: Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board

From: Mel L. Horton, Ed.D., Dean, Farrington College of Education & Human Development,
Sacred Heart University

Date: July 16, 2026

Subject: Merging of Elementary World Language Instruction and Secondary World Language
Endorsements

**Merging of Elementary World Language Instruction and Secondary World Language
Endorsements**

Introduction:

Currently, the State of Connecticut allows for cross-endorsement into elementary world language instruction for those who already hold (or are eligible for) a secondary world language teaching certificate. Given that world language instruction is widely recognized as a critical shortage area, and the requirements for elementary world language instruction and secondary world language are already substantially similar, the prevailing sentiment in the field is that they should not be kept separate.

This proposal seeks to combine the elementary world language instruction and secondary world language endorsements into a single endorsement area.

Rationale for Adopting this Proposal:

- This approach seeks to modernize and align Connecticut with the approach taken by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) – as well as many other states – on the certification of world language educators.
- This proposal will help reduce barriers to entry and staffing of qualified educators in this field.
- Implementation of this proposal is feasible because the requirements for these two endorsement areas are already substantially similar; combining them will also make adherence to ACTFL standards more straightforward (given that ACTFL standards are PreK-12).

Conclusion:

To ensure alignment with ACTFL standards and streamline the certification process for qualified prospective world language educators, this proposal recommends that the elementary world language instruction and secondary world language endorsements be combined into one endorsement area.

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Attachment(s)

(Legislative or Regulatory Language to be considered would be placed here)