

Date: October 6th, 2026
To: Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board
From: Kristen Basiaga
Subject: Professional Educator Scholarship Program

This proposal establishes a scholarship for teachers in order to pursue continuing education to be used towards earning the professional educator certificate or cross-endorsement in shortage areas.

Title 10 - Education and Culture
Chapter 166 - Teachers and Superintendents
Section 10-156jj. - Professional educator scholarship program
Universal Citation: CT Gen Stat § 10-156kk. (NEW - July 1, 2027)

- (a) There is established a professional educator scholarship program administered by the Department of Education. The program shall provide an annual scholarship to teachers who (1) are actively serving under an initial educator certificate, provisional educator certificate, or professional educator certificate and (2) are enrolled in courses at a regionally-accredited institution of higher education and/or CT State approved alternate pathway in order to meet the requirements of professional educator certificate or cross-endorsement in shortage areas. Maximum grants shall not exceed ten thousand dollars per year per educator, with a statewide cap of one million dollars per year.
- (b) Not later than January 1, 2028, the department shall, in consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1) any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the scholarships, and (3) the notification of teachers in priority school districts of the scholarship program.
- (c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, the department shall award scholarships in accordance with the provisions of this section and the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.