

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, September 8th, 2025, 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Recording

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:04 p.m.

Attendance:

Attendees: (All Virtual): Jennifer Rodriguez, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Tiffany Caouette, Jennifer Delaney, Rebecca Good, Margaret Gustafson, Patrice McCarthy, Cynthia Ritchie, Jenny graves, Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons

Guests: Representative Jenn Leeper, Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Shuana Tucker, Lauren Tafrate, Julianne Frost, Kaylan Ricciardi, Tong Koh, Scheherazade Salimi, Eliza Sked, Ryan Colwell, Fabian Bramwell, Paula Talty, Christopher Trombly, Jade Gopie, Raymond Rossoman, Malik McKinley, Ann Traynor, Paige Bray, Liz Chu, Edward Frame, Hamish MacPhail, Meghan Hatch-Geary, Jeanette Luna, Chloe Cummings

Absentees: Jennifer Delaney

- I. **Approval of Minutes** (August 11, 2025) Approved with one correction -date of Oct. 19, 2026, Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, meeting date changed from August 12th.
- II. **Administrator Announcements** - Karen Colebut provided a synopsis of what her responsibilities are as the Administrator of the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, (CEPCB).
Board Process – Chair Jen Rodriguez explained the flexible nature of the agenda and how the meeting will proceed.
- III. **Updates** - Chair Jen Rodriguez provided an update on what the CEPCB has accomplished in the 10 months it has been operating:
 - Statutory deadlines completed for 2025 (13a, 13b, 12a).
 - Board Development / Learning through presentations
 - Continuing work on regulations, legislation, and future due dates of statutory obligations.

Legislative Update - Chair Jen Rodriguez met with State Representative Jenn Leeper and Senator McCrory. A brief overview was provided regarding the work CEPCB has completed and is currently undertaking. Future meetings will be scheduled periodically to keep members of the CGA Education Committee apprised of the board's work.

Additional update - Jen Rodriguez informed the board that there may be a possibility for a CEPCB retreat, similar to the SBE's annual retreat. Additional information will be provided to the board as it becomes available.

Regulations Ad Hoc – the Regulations Ad Hoc Committee met on September 5th, 2025. The committee will hold its next meeting on September 19th, 2025, to begin its work on reviewing regulations and how it intends to tackle its work meeting biweekly. The committee will begin its work by addressing the sunseting regulations first and then bring that work forward for the board to review.

Presentations – Ajit Golapalakrishnan provided a detailed presentation in collaboration with SDE Staff, based on research and data that identified the details and process of how educators first become certified in the state of Connecticut. Julianne Frost, Lauren Trafate and Kaylan Ricciardi were identified as the SDE staff members who provided the expertise regarding the process of certification while Mr. Golapalakrishnan researched and analyzed the raw data encompassed his presentation.

Takeaways from the presentation:

The State of Connecticut provides aspiring educators seven options (pathways) to become certified:

- CT certifies on average 3,000 educators a year and approximately 2,000 are employed each year.
- CT Educator Preparation Program (EPP) (Traditional and alternative routes combined into one for data.)
- Enhanced Reciprocity
- NASDTEC Program
- NASDTEC Experience
- Transcript / Experience

- 6PA 24-41 Waiver (data not included in presentation as it is new)

Discussion ensued

Rebecca Good motioned to table the detailed review of the Transcript/Experience Pathway Chart to allow the board to review the chart and add it to the October 20th, 2025, CEPCB meeting.

The motion was seconded by Kristen Basiaga.

Vote: Unanimous

The Motion carried.

Public Act 24-41 Sec. 6 Waiver Proposed Language – Chair Jen Rodriguez granted Vice Chair Cynthia Ritchie so that she could present.

Chair Jen Rodriguez stated that the proposed change would:

- Amend PA-24-41 Sec. 6 of the Conn. Gen. Stats. to shift approval authority for initial educator certification to the CEPCB, from SBE.
- Establish protocols and guidance for the process of initial certification waiver requests, as outlined in the new subsection (c) to reduce redundant waivers and clarify administrative procedures.
- Add a recusal clause that would require board members to abstain from discussions or votes on matters that they have direct (or indirect) personal, professional, or financial interest.
- Maintain the State Board of Education's role in formally issuing the certification upon CEPCB approval.
- Align pursuant statutory language with the CEPCB's charge pursuant to Public Act 24-41; Also puts the start as July of 2026, once our statutory deadlines are complete.

These changes align with the State of Connecticut's policies and procedures that require public agencies, boards and councils to conduct business with the highest levels of transparency.

New Waiver Proposals – Chair Jen Rodriguez began this presentation to the board was by reminding members that they received updates via email previously which outlined the

June/August proposal updates in red font from the June meeting, and the questions that were presented at the August meeting in blue font.

Dr. Rebecca Good encapsulated this information in a newer version with the language that she wished to have presented to the board for consideration. Kristen Basiaga submitted proposals also.

Dr. Good explained that she changed the wording from “waiver” to “attestation”. In her document entitled, “Minimum Content Knowledge Alternative Approaches”.

Discussion ensued

Chair Jen Rodriguez called for a vote in favor or against the board moving forward to work on:

Vote:

In favor: 11

Opposed: 2

Non vote: 1

Kristen Basiaga provided a detailed explanation of her proposed waiver, EPP Pilot Waiver, which would include permitting EPPs to waive the current minimum content knowledge assessment. For students who do not pass the Praxis II exam. If EPPs could define what the assessment is for a content knowledge assessment she may support the proposal.

Discussion Ensued

2025-09 Superintendent Waiver – The proposal recommends the CEPCB create a 1-year pilot of a superintendent waiver pathway for prospective educators to demonstrate their minimum content knowledge for students who:

- Have met all other requirements for initial certification except passing the content knowledge assessment.
- Achieve a score within one standard error measurement (SEM) of the cut score
- Do not have a PRAXIS II bridge available in their subject area

Chair Jen Rodriguez closed discussion and reminded board members to disseminate the information garnered at this meeting to their respective organizations.

Discussion – Birth to Grade 3 Regulations Language – Paige Bray & CPRL

Professor Paige Bray of Eastern CT State College, began her presentation that there were only two changes made to the language that had been previously provided to the CEPCB. This presentation described the proposed changes to Sec. 10-145. CPRL member Tong Koh explained that the proposed language includes the CEPCB and SDE professionals to assist in the preparation of guidelines.

Action Item - CEPCB Chair Jen Rodriguez called for a motion to approve this Birth to Grade 3 proposed regulatory language and move it forward to the CT Legislation & Policy Development Committee and then to SBE for their approval also.

Margaret Gustafson motioned to move the proposal forward.

Kristen Basiaga seconded the motion.

Vote:

Unanimous

Motion carried

CEPCB Meeting Schedule 2025 /2026:

Review of the type of meeting platforms for CEPCB 2025-2026 schedule.

Rebecca good motioned to reconsider March 9th, 2026, meeting date to virtual from in-person.

Dr. Katherine Roe seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Chair Jen Rodriguez called for a motion to accept the CEPCB Meeting Schedule 2025-2026 with March 9th, 2026, CEPCB meeting date from in-person to virtual.

Anne Dichele moved to accept the CEPCB Meeting Schedule 2025-2026 with March 9th, 2026, Meeting date change from in-person to virtual.

Seconded by Margaret Gustafson

Vote:

In favor: 12thways Flow Chart

Motion carried

Opposed :1

Motion Carried

Other Action Items to be brought forward to the CEPCB Meeting October 20th, 2025:

1. List of Ad Hoc Committees and respective members
2. Review of the Visioning Ad Hoc Committee
3. Section 14 Ad Hoc Committee
4. Review of the Pathways Flow Chart
5. Summary of Current 5 approved SBE 24-41 Waivers and denials

CEPCB Administrator provided clarification on the proper usage of Robert's Rules of Order Point of Order which is *the demand for a ruling from the chair regarding a breach of the*

rules¹ and reasoning behind the use of motions for informal discussion in smaller assemblies vs. larger groups with full agendas.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:02p.m.

¹ Robert's Rules of Order 12th Edition Henry Robert III, 2020