

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, November 17th, 2025, 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Microsoft Teams Event(Virtual)
Approved Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:07 p.m.

Attendance:

Attendees: (All Virtual): Jennifer Rodriguez, Dr, Cynthia Ritchie, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Tiffany Caouette, Jennifer Delaney, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Dr. Mel Horton, Hamish McPhail, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Bob Sartoris, Shannon Marimon, Sinthia Sone-Moyano

Guests: Shuana Tucker, Lauren Tafrate, Julianne Frost, Kaylan Ricciardi, Tong Koh, Liz Chu, Scheherazade Salimi, Athena McAlenney, Christopher Trombly, Jade Gopie, Raymond Rossomando, Rana Thabata, Paige Bray, Joie Liew, , Jia Lee, Jeanette Luna, Elizabeth Sked, Trevor Baisden, Kasey Dunn, Jennifer Michalek, James Brown, Ann Traynor, Kirsten Henry, Maddy Malicdem, Jennifer Ruggiero, Yan Wei, Michael Bzdyra, Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Jennifer Benevento

Approval of Minutes (October 20 & October 27th, 2025) Approved as written.

Public Participation – None.

Virtual meeting – Any submitted public participation via-email has been distributed to the board and made part of the public record.

Announcements

- **Administrator Announcements** – Karen Colebut reminded board members and guests to submit items prior to 10 days for consideration to be included on the agenda

Updates – Jen Rodriguez

- Education Committee – Jen Rodriguez / Dr. Cynthia Ritchie - Board Chair Jen Rodriguez provided an update on the upcoming planning of meetings with the request sent on November 4, and a follow up will be sent on November 18 to the Education Committee.
- LPDC – Jen Rodriguez Regulations The LPDC was a productive meeting. The regulations and legislative language that was presented was approved by LPDC to move to SBE.
- Regulations Ad Hoc Committee – The committee will meet on Friday, November 21, 2025. Anyone who wishes to attend the meeting may do so.

Regulations Organizer - Kristen Basiaga

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Board member Kristen Basiaga presented a detailed overview of the Sunset Regulations Tracker that she prepared as a member of the Regulations Ad Hoc Committee for discussion and review at its biweekly meetings.

Projects –

- Program Approval – The Regulations Ad Hoc group will tackle a large chunk of regulations in collaboration with SDE consultants, EPP representation of the board , CPRL and EPP representation at large in addition to professional content organizations. Meetings will be held; the work will be shared with the board and the Regulations Ad Hoc committee.
- Birth to Grade 3 Endorsement – Paige Bray reached out to Tong Koh at CPRL They will be working on next steps of standards and guidance.
- ODRD update - The Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities provided the board with a comprehensive presentation to the board at its last meeting. The ODRD group is presently working on four regulations.

Action Items – Jen Rodriguez

Amendment to the Bylaws – The proposed amendment to the bylaws language is as follows:

[T]he board shall establish alternate members for each of the 16 board members; each appointing organization leadership shall appoint an alternate for its voting member on the board. The alternate may vote only in the absence of the voting member.

Patrice McCarthy motioned to accept the amendment.

Tiffany Caouette seconded the motion.

Discussion Ensued

Vote: *by roll call*

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Proposed for Meeting/Calendar Adjustments to in-person/full day 12.8.

– Jen Rodriguez

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Jen Rodriguez provided a high-level explanation regarding the configuration and time frame changes for the upcoming CEPCB December 8th, 2025 meeting.

- Proposed change from virtual to in-person; from a half day to a full day.

Jen Rodriguez called or amotion to accept the changes from 9-11 a.m. for the morning session of the 12/8 meeting and an all-day configuration for the March 9th, 2026 retreat.

Patrice McCarthy motioned to accept the changes.
Cynthia Ritchie seconded the motion.

Discussion Ensued

Dr. Mel Horton motioned to amend the previous motion from 9-11 to 9-12 in reference to the morning session of the 12/8 meeting.

Kristen Basiaga seconded the motion

Jen Rodriguez motioned to have the changes accepted with the amendment of changing the morning session from 9:00 a.m. to noon; lunch from 12:00-1:00.

The regular session in the afternoon.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Regulations – Kristen Basiaga

- The temporary 90 day Certification Regulations
- Regulations Batch – A detailed analysis regarding the Praxis Core examination and other tests that are no longer used can be substituted for ST ACT, GRE or Praxis Core to determine where a student may need remediation.
- Flexibility concerns are addressed by board members
- Certification alerts provide a basis for the SDE to establish guidelines
- The language in PA 16-41 states that students must take an exam but does not specify any particular exam.

Discussion Ensued

Dr. Roe motioned to remove 10-145d-404(a) from the board’s consideration, allow it to sunset while the board pursues a legislative fix.

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Shannon Marimon seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Kristen Basiaga continued with the comprehensive presentation of the regulations including the Initial Educator certificate.

Discussion Ensued

Durational shortage area permits (DSAPs) and the number an educator is able to have three issuances was discussed as possibly being increased.

Language that included references to BEST was addressed at the last Regulations Ad Hoc Committee meeting to Beginning Educator Induction Program.

The language would be described in the definitions portion of the statute as mentoring program for new teachers.

Bilingual cross endorsement has a requirement that operates as a barrier that only permits educators to complete coursework at one school. SDE assisted the board by putting forth language that would permit an educator to complete coursework in at least two schools for completion of the Bilingual endorsement.

Changes in the grade ranges have been established: previously 7-12 are now grades 4-12. Under the Section of Comprehensive Special Education, the certificate is now endorsed for prekindergarten through grade 12.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to move the regulations document forward to the Legislation Policy & Development Committee with the amendment of removing 404A and allowing it to sunset; remove 145d-412(A)4(A); 145d-441(4)a3(B) to change it to participate in Team.

Margaret Gustafson seconded the motion.

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Vote: In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

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Kristen Basiaga presented her PowerPoint Presentation on the Pathway to Professional Certification.

Currently, the requirements for educators to attain the Professional Certification are as follows:

- Possess a master's degree or higher in an appropriate subject area.
- Complete five years (50 months) of service
- Satisfactorily complete the beginning educator induction program.
- Micro credentialing is an option for the board to pursue a unique pathway to Professional Certification.
- The implementation of a CEU- based program based on micro credentialing would require the establishment of an entire unit within the agency to pursue.

Discussion Ensued

Kristn Basiaga recommended bringing back to each organization for discussion to close the loop and revisit at the next board meeting.

The Teams recording stopped abruptly at 3:48 p.m.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to table indefinitely the three waiver proposal discussions.
Dr. Mel Horton seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

CEPCB Chair Jen Rodriguez called for a motion to adjourn

Adjournment at 4:02 p.m.