

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, May 11th, 2026, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Event (Virtual)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:04 p.m.

Attendance:

Attendees: (All Virtual) Jennifer Rodriguez, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Chad Johnson, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Dr. Mel Horton, Hamish McPhail, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Shannon Marimon, Sinthia Sone-Moyano

Absentees: Tiffany Caoette, Bob Sartoris, Srah Lahr Fitzsimons

Guests: (All Virtual) Dr. Shuana Tucker, Dr. Jade Gopie, Lauren Tafrate, Kaylan Ricciardi, Julianne Frost, Tong Hui Koh, Scheherazade Salimi, Ann Traynor, Ryan Colwell, Kayleigh Hoagland, Elizabeth Sked, Jen Ruggiero, Ray Rossamondo, Jamess Brown

Approval of Minutes: (April 20th, 2026) Meeting Minutes – Approved by general consensus as written.

Announcements:

Administrator Announcements: Karen Colebut provided the board with updates on HB5323 that was passed in both the House and the Senate that extends the sunseting date for Education regulations until July 1, 2027. This action by the general assembly will provide additional time for moving the amended regulations through the formal regulatory process. Other information provided to the board by the administrator: the CEPCB 2027 Meeting calendar would be forwarded to board members following the meeting in order to review and prepare to act on at the June 8th, in-person meeting.

Board Business: – CEPCB Chair Jen Rodriguez provide the board with an overview regarding the CEPCB's not having any matters before the LPDC or SBE meetings in the month of May.

Updates

Workforce Connections – Board member Shannon Marimon gave a brief overview regarding workforce development initiatives underway with the governor's Pathways Commission. The first meeting has been scheduled. The work of the commission will be divided among four pillars: pathway design and delivery, credentialing and quality, work-based learning, and employer engagement. The commission's legislative endeavors will be focused on two bills in particular: SB005 that focuses on K-12 and teacher certification as it relates to AI and HB5003 that was passed as Public Act 26-12 – An Act Concerning Workforce Development and working conditions in the state. Two additional areas of focus is a pilot for educator externships and establishing a working group to study the effectiveness and benefits of co-instruction teaching models used by public schools.

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Projects:

Education Program Approval Working Group/CPRL – Tong Hui Koh updated the board on the status of the ongoing work. To date group has arrived at a consensus on the regulations language, the standards and procedures for program approval. The group has completed the guidelines for the for the majority of the program approval standards and procedures. There will be ten content-specific groups including Special Education, TESOL/Bilingual, Remedial Reading and others. The endorsement-specific working groups assist with the development of guidelines for the model course and credit sequence that CSDE will use to assess whether proposed programs satisfy the content-specific standards. It is difficult to predict a timeline for the content-specific working groups, but we hope to close out the work around September or October. The Core Working Group should complete its work around July.

Birth to Grade 3 Cert. Standards/Guidelines Working Group – Paige Bray/ Simon Colwell Professor Simon Colwell provided an update for the board as Paige Bray was unable to attend the meeting.

Professor Colwell informed the board that the working group is at the final stage of developing guidance for the new integrated Birth to Grade 3 Certification. The working group has most recently been focusing on the clinical aspects of the guidance to ensure that candidates going through this new certification receive in-depth clinical experience across the age and grade range from Birth to Grade 3. Additionally, because of the integrated nature of the new certification, the group wants to ensure that candidates and programs provide substantial experience with early intervention, special education procedures and pedagogical practices. This has been a continuing collaboration with OEC and SDE. The final guidance will be shared with the Early Childhood Higher ED Consortium. The next steps will be to connect with the Core Working Group.

Presentations/Discussions/Q&A

Building the Foundation – Chair Jen Rodriguez shared the top four items that the board identified at the April 20th meeting. The top four items of focus were fund and align the educator pipeline, workforce sustainability, unifying strategies, and advocacy/legislative fixes. The PowerPoint presentation that was shared with the board is essentially a review of work completed by the board which includes completing statutory obligations.

March Retreat Reflection focus for 2027 Session – The four themes identified by the board were: fund and align the educator pipeline, workforce sustainability, unifying strategies, and advocacy/legislative fixes approved by the board at the April 20th, 2026 meeting. Items from the 2026 legislative session will be reviewed and moved forward to the 2027 legislative session. This information is reflected in the proposals tracker. Items the board desires to achieve: to ensure a coordinated state-wide strategy for education, recruitment, preparation and retention, to

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address inconsistent funding by establishing a reliable, sustainable finance support, and build a state-wide system that strengthens long-term workforce development and stability and finally to use data as a guide to decision making.

As a review, Dr. Shuana Tucker and Dr. Jade Gopie provided the board with a presentation at the March retreat. The philanthropic funding for Teach Connecticut has been terminated as a result of the CSDE's reluctance to provide funding. Dr. Tucker confirmed that \$2,000,000. has been approved effective July 1st, 2026 for the apprenticeship programs.

A comprehensive review of the Talent Office's presentation from the March retreat that focused on Priority Funding Requests revealed the funding outcomes from the 2026 legislative session include:

\$2,000,000 line item approved in the budget for apprenticeship programs.

\$500,000 for Paraeducator Pathway was funded; will receive the same funding level; Ed Rising Expansion did not receive state funding, but philanthropic funding is pending. The CSDE Talent Office will discuss the ramifications surrounding the lack of Teacher Certification Software funding. All other requests were not funded.

SDE's overall priorities including funding initiatives have not yet been articulated for the upcoming legislative session but Deputy Commissioner will provide the board with an update when additional information becomes available.

Reflection - Identifying What is Working vs. What is Not

Need to Create a Teacher Leader Endorsement – A Teacher/School Talent Office Leader endorsement is being considered by the Talent Office. Although there are some districts in Connecticut that offer this position. However, the SDE Talent Office would like to pursue this endorsement as a state-wide option. The Talent Office has conducted research that has identified a shortage of administrators at the secondary level.

Discussion Ensued

Team Reimagining Teacher – The process is underway, full roll out will be fall of 2027.

What Actions Will Lead to Success? This criteria was decided upon at the last meeting. A joint proposal collaborating with the Talent Office will be crafted once the board has chosen its list of priorities. The board can begin to review its list of priorities once the data from the survey is complete. The board may consider advocating for the state to fund the 6-16 pipeline. Identifying areas where funding can be increased through the board's work and break down barriers of cost.

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Discussion Ensued

Reflections – Many of the items listed will be addressed by the survey.

The Talent office listed the following priorities from their perspective: Level data would be a top priority. Clarification from the SDE Commissioner on her policy for addressing underrepresented groups. Next would be shortage areas, then continuing the work that Teach CT started, marketing and branding.

Funding was identified as the primary item that is limiting progress for moving initiatives forward.

Next Steps- Jen Rodriguez - The survey will be crafted and sent to the board prior to the June meeting, which will be an in-person meeting from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., with a potential working session from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Additional details will be forthcoming. July will likely not be a full meeting of the board. In August the board will review that information.

An inquiry regarding the budget process was directed by Jen Rodriguez to Deputy Commissioner Sinthia Sone-Moyano who will circle back with clarifying information on the budget process for line items to be presented to the Office of the Governor (OTG).

Discussion Ensued

Action Item Approval of Legislative Language Amending Sec. 51 of Public Act 24-51

Kristen Basiaga provided the board with a review of the CEPCB's legislative proposal for the upcoming 2027 legislative session.

Changes proposed in the legislative proposal were outlined as follows:

Carve out certain education regulations from being repealed in 2027; permit obsolete regulations to be repealed; and amend certain regulations by updating the language.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to adopt the legislative proposal to amend Public act 24-41 Section 51.

Dr. Katherine Roe seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.