STATE OF CONNECTICUT

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, October 19th, 2026, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

450 Columbus Boulevard Conference Rooms C & D, North Tower

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:13 p.m**.**

Attendance:

Attendees: Jen Rodriguez, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Kristen Basiaga, Tiffany Caouette, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Patrice McCarthy, Shannon Marimon, Dr. Mel Horton, Hamish MacPhail, Dr. Katherine Roe, Sinthia Sone-Moyano.

Absentees: Elsa Batista, Jennifer Delaney, Bob Sartoris

Guests: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Malik McKinney, Lauren Tafrate, Julianne Frost, Kaylan Ricciardi, Tong Hui Koh, Kayleigh Hoagland, Christopher Trombley, Elizabeth Sked, Ann Traynor

Approval of Minutes: (August 10, 2026 & September 14, 2026) – Approved by general consensus as written.

Announcements:

Administrator Announcements: Karen Colebut provided the board with a comprehensive update regarding the status of the proposed regulations. PR2026-009, the Code of Professional Responsibility for Educators Public Comment Period, began on August 4, 2026 and ended on September 4, 2026. A written comment was submitted by a member of the public. The board will issue a response to the public comment; a Notice of Decision will be drafted; and the wording of the proposed regulation will be posted to the eRegulations System website. The next step will be to forward electronically PR2026-009 to the Attorney General's Office for review to determine legal sufficiency of the proposed regulation.

Notices of Intent (NOIs) for the following proposed regulations were posted to the eRegulations System website on October 19, 2026 which commenced the 30-day Public Comment Period:

PR2026-011	General Conditions	Public Comment Period began 10.9.2026
PR2026-012	Types of Certificates	Public Comment Period began 10.9.2026
PR2026-018	Special Authorizations	Public Comment Period began 10.9.2026
PR2026-020	Reissuance and Cross Endorsement	Public Comment Period began 10.9.2026

The status of the remaining proposed regulations is as follows:

PR2026-025	Applied Curriculum and Technology	OPM Review 9.1.2026
PR2026-027	State Vocational -Technical School	OPM Review 9.1.2026
PR2026-028	Special Services Certificates	OPM Review 9.1.2026
PR2026-029	Administrative	OPM Review 9.3.2026

PR2026-030	Adult Education	OPM Review 9.3.2026
PR2026-032	Appeals Process	OPM review 9.3.2026

B**oard Business –** Jen Rodriguez

Chair Rodriguez began her overview of board business by informing the board that the Legislation and Policy Development Committee's (LPDC) did not meet in October. The SBE meeting was convened as an evening event. A tour of the off-site facility instead was provided to board members. Items that were slated for October and any items approved at this meeting will be placed on the LPDC November agenda. One proposal, "Strengthening the Connecticut Educator Pipeline", which amended the Aspiring Educator Scholarship Program is ready to be included on the LPDC November agenda. Three additional items may be added to the LPDC agenda depending on the board's review of those items. Three proposals were approved at the SBE meeting on September 14, 2026: the sunsetting language update to include the provisional certificate; the revision of regulation 10-145d-458; and the amendment to regulation 10-145d-619 for unique endorsements.

A note regarding the proposed regulations process- the current process will remain in place for review by sister agencies. The next cycle of proposed regulations will undergo a different approach, grouping proposed regulations into larger batches to promote a more efficient outcome for all agencies involved in the process.

The board was awaiting feedback from the Commissioner on the Professional Educator Scholarship; feedback was received; for this reason, it was not included on SBE's October agenda.

The Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities (ODRD) was originally slated to present to the board in November. However, ODRD is scheduled to provide a presentation to SBE first. As such, ODRD will schedule a future update for the board after it makes its presentation to SBE.

Proposed Regulations- The board administrator, Deputy Commissioner Sone-Moyano and Chair Rodriguez are working with OPM and OTG to move the proposed regulations forward. Once the proposed regulations with their corresponding tracking numbers have been granted approval by OPM and OTG, Notices of Intent (NOI)s can be posted. Once the NOIs are posted, the 30-day comment period begins. The next group of proposed regulations will be submitted in large batches per a recommendation made by OPM to expedite the process given the amount of proposed regulations they receive from agencies across the state.

BCBA – the board was contacted regarding progress surrounding the BCBA progress on certification. Ravit Stein was the board's public participant who spoke about a pathway for leadership. This will be part of the next phase of proposals that the board will initiate work on.

A working group meeting was convened to gauge if there is an interest in continuing conversations on this topic. Jennifer Michalek, CSDE, is working with Math Con. Dr. Ritchie's proposal was included in the conversation that the board previously reviewed and approved. Legislation requires guidelines to be crafted in a collaborative effort by CSDE and the CEPCB.

The proposed regulations sponsored by CSDE have undergone multiple iterations of edits and revisions during the period of review between May and September, 2026. In addition to coordinating with sister agencies that review proposed regulations from all other state agencies, CSDE has an additional internal review process that the proposed regulations must be reviewed through

The meeting agenda was amended to accommodate Ajit Gopalakrishnan's schedule and permit him to present his PowerPoint presentation to the board prior to departing for a prior commitment.

Presentations/Discussions:
Update on the Praxis Bridge Rollout – Ajit Gopalakrishnan

Key Takeaways from the presentation:

- Individuals who score within one standard error of measurement (SEM) of the passing score on a Praxis II test can complete a professional learning module in lieu of retaking the entire Praxis II test.
- There is no cost associated with this option. Connecticut offers two free retests for eligible candidates that can be used for either a full test retake or Praxis II Bridge.
- This option has significantly increased the number of completers; nearly 75% of all candidates eligible for the Bridge module accessed and completed the module (based on the candidate pool of individuals who tested after the launch of the Bridge module.
- Ninety percent of test takers believe the Bridge was helpful.
- The Bridge tests that are currently available are listed below:
    - Elementary Education: Reading and Language Arts
    - Elementary Education: Mathematics
    - Elementary Education: Social Studies
    - Elementary Education: English Language Arts
    - Middle School Mathematics
    - Mathematics
    - Special Education: Foundational Knowledge
    - Middle School Science
    - Social Studies
    - ParaPathways: Reading and Writing
    - ParaPathways: Mathematics

The Bridge tests that will be rolled out in September of 2027 are as follows:

- Art: Content Knowledge 5134
- Biology 5236
- General Science 5436
- Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge 5857
- Middle School Social Studies 5589

The Foundations of Reading has changed. The former title was Foundations of Reading 890. The new title is Foundations of Reading 702. The content remains the same. As of October, the manner in which the Foundations of Reading has changed. The difference is a candidate may take the test in one sitting or a candidate may break the test up into five separate sessions, that Pearson refers to as teslets. Many candidates find the length of time it takes to complete the test in one sitting challenging. The time to complete the test in one sitting may be up to three to four hours. Whether a candidate opt to take the test all at once in one sitting, or chooses to break the test up over several sessions, the cost remains the same.

Projects

Birth to Grade 3 will meet on Friday with the Core Working Group and CPRL. When the language that has been crafted by the group has been reviewed by the Regulations Ad Hoc committee and legal counsel, the board will review as well as the EPP and content working groups.

Action Items:

Response/Decision to PR2026-009 Public Comment – Jen Rodriguez and Karen Colebut

- One public comment was submitted that requested the word teacher remain in the proposed regulation instead of the word educator.
- The board's view is educator is an appropriate term to use in the proposed regulation to ensure that it covers all of the people that are endorsed by CSDE.

Discussion Ensued

- Tiffany Caouette motioned to move forward with the response to the comment to PR2026-009 adding a rationale regarding equity diversity and inclusion.

  Kristen Basiaga seconded the motion.

  Vote:
  In Favor: Unanimous
  The motion carried.

Professional Educator Scholarship – amend and identify estimated cost – Kristen Basiaga

- This proposal was reviewed and approved by the board and LPDC, but was not included on SBE's agenda primarily due to the lack of a dollar amount associated with the

proposal being included. A 10,000.00 per educator cap was included in the proposal but not an overall amount. A cap of $1,000,000. per year was added to the original version of the proposal. This proposal would assist existing educators with pursuing higher education required to continue their certification.

- An important policy consideration surrounding a notification aspect of the proposal that would inform people that these scholarships are available; notification of teachers in priority school districts is important because some school districts have support; not all districts provide support, such as tuition reimbursement.

- The notification for teachers would not significantly increase costs beyond the $1,000,000.
- Chair Rodriguez will check with the LPDC to verify that the only aspect of this proposal that required an edit was the dollar amount being added that was requested by the SBE; once the LPDC has provided clarification, the proposal can move forward.

- Kristen Basiaga motioned to accept the updated language to move forward with guidelines coming.
  Dr. Katherine Roe seconded the motion.
  Kristen Basiaga withdrew her original motion.

- Kristen Basiaga motioned to put forward this proposal with the amendment by addition to include the Connecticut Education Preparation and Certification Board in Part B.
  Shannon Marimon seconded the motion.

  Vote:
  In favor: Unanimous
  The motion carried.

Classroom Competency Pathway for Content Knowledge Assessment – Kristen Basiaga

- This proposal was presented previously, but was tabled. The Praxis Bridge program has been helping teachers pass their content knowledge assessments. However, there are a number of gaps because there are tests that the Praxis Bridge doesn't cover. This proposal is designed for candidates who are seeking to acquire their initial educator certification; are graduates of EPPs; and fell within one Standard Error Measurement (SEM) of their cut score. These candidates are unfortunately incapable of taking the Bridge, because it's not available for their subject area. If a candidate has met all of the above-mentioned requirements they could demonstrate their content acuity by teaching in their content area for one year; ten months of teaching under a DSAP and through an observation process

conducted by their administrators, their content knowledge could be fulfilled through that observation.

- This proposal was presented primarily for the purpose of receiving feedback from board members; allowing board members the opportunity to share the proposal with their respective organizations to obtain additional viewpoints and input from concerned stakeholders.

Discussion Ensued

- The board engaged in discussion regarding the possibilities that can be incorporated into the proposal such as creating a form of evidence for extended learning or professional development that could be assigned to the educator simultaneously with the observations.
- A rubric could be added for evaluating the educator.
- Board members expressed concern for subjectivity in evaluating the educator.
- This proposal could be potentially be a pilot.

Connecticut Educator Workforce Debt-Free College Program – Jen Rodriguez

- Chair Rodriguez passed the management of the meeting to Vice Chair, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie
- Chair Rodriguez informed the board that due to lack of time that remained in the meeting, a complete presentation of the proposal would not be possible. In the alternative, Chair Rodriguez requested input from the board on information that may be included in the proposal moving forward.
- This proposal was not intended to be included in this legislative session. The proposal was designed by mirroring the community college's debt relief program that includes a last dollar protocol in which all other grants and scholarships are applied and then the state covers any remaining costs for the student.
- The plan would be to begin with ed prep programs at the state level and subsequently extend the program to private colleges. The primary goal of this proposal is to provide financial relief to people who wish to have a career in the field of education.
    - Board members engaged in conversation about the proposal. Some recommendations provided by board members were as follows:
    - Cost associated with higher education poses a significant barrier for aspiring educators who wish to further their education.

- Private institutions of higher education should also be included in this proposal.
- Other scholarships would have to be applied first.
- Including a requirement for educators who receive this scholarship to work in an Alliance district would be tricky.

New Business – Open discussion was not engaged in by the board at this meeting.

Adjournment: 3:57 p.m.