



WHEN ARE DISTRICTS REQUIRED TO REQUEST REVOCATION?

In July, Connecticut's Attorney General and Child Advocate released an investigative report revealing significant failures in preventing, investigating and responding to alleged abuse of students by school employees (<http://www.ct.gov/ag/lib/ag/health/dcfedureport070810.pdf>). Although the overwhelming majority of school employees want only what is best for the children and families they serve, effective policies and procedures must be carefully maintained to protect children from those few who may do harm.

To this end, the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification reminds districts of the essential process for reporting any allegation of abuse or neglect to the State Department of Education (SDE). Each district should incorporate this procedure into their formal mandated reporting policy required under state law.

Any allegation of neglect or abuse of students by a school employee, whether from parents, school employees or others, must be rigorously investigated. Under state law, mandated reporters are required to report such allegations

to the Department of Children and Families. The school district investigation must be coordinated with DCF, so as not to impede or taint their investigation into the possible abuse and misconduct.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §17a-101c requires that the State Department of Education is notified when an individual holding a certificate, permit or authorization is alleged to have abused or neglected a child. If investigation into the misconduct results in sufficient evidence to lead the district to place an employee who holds a Connecticut educator certificate, permit or authorization on leave, the district **must** submit notification of the disciplinary action to the SDE. If the investigation reveals serious abuse or neglect, a revocation request must be submitted to the Department of Education at that time. To make a revocation request, the district should contact the Bureau Chief, Nancy Pugliese, at nancy.pugliese@ct.gov. Alternatively, they may contact the Office of Legal Affairs at 860-713-6520. A revocation request with accompanying documentation will be requested.

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IMPORTANT REMINDER: DSAP PROCESS

Employing school districts must submit ED 177 DSAP applications to the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification *prior to* the first day of an individual's employment. Pages 1-3 of the application should be submitted directly to the Bureau along with all official transcripts. If the applicant is required to enroll in a planned program for certification, the ED177 - Attachment must be completed by the employing district and then that page should be forwarded to the Connecticut college or university for verification of enrollment in the planned program. If the applicant is not required to enroll in a planned program (as is the case for most academic cross-endorsements sought by educators who already hold a valid Connecticut certificate with a teaching endorsement), the entire ED177, including the attachment, should be completed by the employing district and submitted to the Bureau with all official transcripts.

The entire application should NOT be forwarded to the preparing Connecticut college or university before submission to the Bureau. Doing so may cause the educator to lose service time under a valid certificate/permit, and often results in compliance issues. In addition, at the end of the year, this may mean the applicant does not have adequate service under a valid certificate or permit to waive the student teaching requirement, if that is required for completion of the program. Please be sure to submit DSAP applications to the Bureau prior to the first day of employment.

IMPORTANT STATUTORY CHANGES IMPACT EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

Several recent changes to Connecticut educator statutes may have an important impact on the ability of some educators to advance from the provisional to the professional educator level of certification. Please note the following changes and plan how you will maintain your educator certificates accordingly. If you have questions about the impact on your particular certificates and circumstances, please email teacher.cert@ct.gov.

1. On or after July 1, 2016, thirty semester hours of graduate coursework will be required to advance teaching certificates to the professional level. Undergraduate coursework will no longer be accepted. (See Public Act 09-1, Sec. 2.)
2. On or after July 1, 2012, experience teaching in a nonpublic school will no longer be accepted to advance certificates to the professional educator level, but may be accepted to renew a provisional educator certificate. (See Public Act 09-1, Sec. 2.)

For more information please go to www.ct.gov/sde/cert and click on Maintaining Connecticut Educator Certification.