



Commissioner's Back-to-School Meeting

Connecticut State Department of Education | August 15, 2017

www.ct.gov/sde/backtoschool

Talent Office Updates — Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification is to establish a fair and consistent certification system defined by high expectations and rigorous standards while ensuring a sufficient supply of learner-ready teachers and school-ready leaders to meet the needs of Connecticut districts.

Authorizations and Permits

The following authorizations, permits, and the 90-day certificate are available when a certified educator cannot be found to fill a position due to a shortage of qualified candidates, coverage for educator absences, or other extenuating circumstances that arise in the district.

Durational Shortage Area Permit (DSAP)(ED-177): This authorization is available to districts for individuals enrolled in a Connecticut educator preparation program (EPP) leading to certification or for certified teachers seeking a cross endorsement in another teaching area. An applicant must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- holds a bachelor's degree in the content/subject;
- is enrolled in a Connecticut educator program, when such a program is required to be certified for the endorsement area; and
- has completed 12 semester hours of credit in the endorsement area in which the DSAP will be issued.

The Connecticut EPP must agree to provide DSAP supervision to the applicant and the district must document steps taken to hire a certified educator for the position. Also, 10 school months of successful teaching under a DSAP may be accepted in lieu of student teaching.

Certified teachers seeking a cross endorsement must have completed 12 semester hours of credit in the endorsement area of the DSAP, as they continue to complete coursework leading to qualification for a cross endorsement. A DSAP may be reissued up to two times, upon completion of nine semester hours of credit completed under each DSAP issued, for the endorsement area.

With the elimination of the highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirement under No Child Left Behind, a DSAP may be reissued with a test deficiency in all areas, except special education. Under IDEA, issuance of a DSAP for special education requires the successful completion of the Praxis II special education test, in addition to the coursework requirement.

Temporary Authorization for a Minor Assignment (TAMA)(ED-173): This authorization is available to districts to fill a teaching assignment when a certified teacher is already teaching one subject in the district and is needed to teach up to *two* periods per day in another subject. A TAMA requires that the teacher has completed 12 semester hours of credit in another subject and is valid through the end of the school year. A TAMA may be reissued for one school year, upon completion of an additional six semester hours of credit in the subject of the minor assignment.

continued

Substitute Teacher Authorization beyond the 40-Day Limit (LTS)(ED-175): This authorization is available to districts seeking to fill teaching endorsement areas only. An applicant must hold a bachelor's degree and have completed 12 credits in the subject to be taught. The school district must document steps taken to hire certified staff for the position or explain extenuating circumstances necessitating a long-term substitute in lieu of a certified educator. Authorization by the State Department of Education is required on or after the 40th day.

Temporary 90-Day Certificate (ED-172): This certificate is issued upon completion of a Connecticut Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program to districts seeking to fill teaching vacancies with Connecticut alternate route to certification completers. This certificate may be used when a teaching position is expected to last 90 days or more. All program and testing requirements for the endorsement must be met. Please note, if the 90-day certificate is issued for a part-time teaching position, then it may be renewed to accumulate the 180 days required.

If a district determines that the teacher has successfully served under the 90-day certificate, then the educator may submit an application for a three-year initial educator certificate.

Subject Specific Secondary Endorsement Area, Grades 7-12: Certification regulations authorize a certified teacher of that subject teaching, in a departmentalized setting, to teach down to grade 5. For a world language endorsement, an educator is authorized to teach down to grade 4.

Public Lookup: For easier access, the Public Lookup button has been relocated to the bureau's main webpage: www.ct.gov/sde/cert. This feature can be used to verify an educator's Connecticut certification status and validity dates.

Regional Accreditation: All coursework completed for certification must be completed through a *regionally accredited* higher education institution. This applies to all applicants whether the application is for first-time Connecticut educator certification, an additional teaching endorsement, or meeting a degree requirement. The accreditation status of colleges and universities can be verified at: www.collegesource.org.

Superintendent's Line: Two dedicated telephone numbers have been established for superintendents and human resources directors. Please continue to contact either Patricia Wilson, unit coordinator, or Wendy Harwin, unit coordinator, according to your assigned RESC.