

My name is Patricia Jordan. I am a high school Math teacher at Waterford High School. I have a BS in Business Administration and a BS in Mathematics with a minor in Education. I also have a Masters in Special Education which was masters plus certification requiring a 51 credit program. In all my studies, the most valuable and practical courses I have taken, leading me to success in the classroom have been my student teaching and my methods courses. It is not until you have student teaching do you really understand how everything fits together and how to apply the book knowledge to the actual situation. I had two summer practicums for my special education and while helpful, were not comparable to the student teaching I do for my mathematics certification.

In addition, I have also been a cooperating teacher to several student teachers and to a one they have all said at one time or another how valuable the student teaching has been. They have all found out the nuances and the difficulties that can happen in a classroom.

I urge you to rethink the proposed changes to special education certification. They changes will be a disservice to the students and teachers of Connecticut.

Thank you!
Patricia E. Jordan