

CertAlert

CERTIFICATION ALERT

Connecticut Educator Certification News from
the Connecticut State Department of Education



June 2024

2024 Legislation Affecting Educator Certification

Effective July 1, 2024

Public Act No. 24-41

Adding a Cross-Endorsement by Passing a Certification Test (Section 5):

Educators who hold an initial, provisional, or professional certificate in a teaching area may add another teaching endorsement (cross-endorsement) to an existing certificate in select certification areas by obtaining a passing score on the appropriate subject area assessment. Additional coursework is no longer required. This applies to all content areas, including art, biology, business, chemistry, earth science, English, general science, health, history and social studies, home economics, mathematics, music, physical education, physics, and world languages. **NOTE:** This provision does not apply to bilingual endorsements, elementary education, integrated early childhood/special education, remedial reading and remedial language arts, school library media, special education, or TESOL.

Establishment of Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (Sections 10-11):

This legislation establishes a new board comprised of a variety of stakeholders to work in partnership with the State Board of Education. The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board and the State Board of Education shall each have the authority to develop standards and proposals for regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and certification.

Grade Span of Secondary Teaching Endorsements (Section 2):

Secondary (grades 7-12) teaching endorsements will now authorize teaching of the particular area in grades 4-12, inclusive: biology, business, chemistry, earth science, English, French, German, general science, history and social studies, Italian, Latin, and classical humanities, Mandarin Chinese, mathematics, Portuguese, physics, Russian, Spanish, and any other world language certification. Secondary certificate holders are eligible to teach their subject area down to grade 4 in a departmentalized setting. In addition, the Trade and Industrial Occupations – Comprehensive High School certification authorizes educators to teach the specific trade or occupational subject in grades 6-12.

Successful Completion of edTPA to Obtain an Institutional Recommendation:

The State Board of Education will no longer require a successful score on the edTPA measurement for program completion of a Connecticut educator preparation program provider (EPP). Connecticut EPPs may continue to use edTPA as a diagnostic tool.

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Certificate Levels (Section 1)

The Initial Educator Certification will be valid for a period of ten (10) years. Any Initial Educator Certification issued prior to July 1, 2025, will be extended to reflect a ten-year validity period.

The Initial Educator Certification may be renewed if the educator has not served under it. If an educator has served under the certification but does not meet requirements to advance it, a one-year extension may be granted up to three times.

Educator Certification levels change from 3-tier to 2-tier (Initial & Professional): Provisional Educator Certifications can no longer be issued or renewed. Educators holding a Provisional Educator Certification must meet requirements for the Professional Educator Certification by the expiration date of the current certification, or they will instead be eligible for an Initial Educator Certification.

Requirements to Advance a Certification to the Professional Level (Section 1)

Educators must document at least 50 school months of successful experience (under an Initial and/or Provisional Educator Certification), have met the teacher education and mentoring (TEAM) program requirements, and hold a master's degree. **NOTE:** The new Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board may approve an alternative to the master's degree requirement to advance an initial certificate to the professional level.

Grade Span of Elementary Teaching Certification (Section 2)

All elementary endorsements (previously issued and newly issued) will authorize an elementary certification holder to teach grades PreK to Grade 6. **NOTE:** Once the grade span includes PreK and kindergarten, the Kindergarten Authorization will no longer be available or required.