

Teacher Residency Programs



“*Teacher residencies are preparation pathways that are anchored in partnership and reflect a program pre-service curriculum that is collaboratively designed by local education agencies and teacher preparation programs to meet the goals of*

- 1) ensuring aspiring teachers have affordable, high-quality opportunities and supports while they learn to teach and*
- 2) supporting the instructional and staffing needs of local schools and districts.*

In their year-long pre-service clinical practice settings, residents are not teachers of record. They work alongside accomplished mentor teachers, experiencing the breadth of roles and responsibilities that teachers engage across the course of a year as educational professionals.”

[Reports | Pathways Alliance](#)
 [\(thepathwaysalliance.org\)](http://thepathwaysalliance.org)



The Connecticut State Department of Education is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer.

Residencies provide greater opportunities for programs to develop strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with school districts. For this reason, ongoing communication between the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) and the district is essential.

A high-quality residency program ensures that the candidate is NOT the teacher of record in year one. Year one entails the candidate working alongside a mentor teacher while completing coursework. Following year one, the program format may comprise one of the following:

- **For those residency programs that utilize a traditional student teaching component, a Resident Educator Certificate (REC) is not required. They are recommended for certification upon completion of the full program (coursework, student teaching, and all required assessments).**
- **For those residency programs where the candidate serves as “teacher of record” while still enrolled in the program, candidates must obtain the REC and serve under it as teacher of record for a minimum of 10 school months. They are recommended for initial certification upon completion of the full program (coursework, ten school months of teaching experience under the REC, and all required assessments).**

Requirements for issuance of a REC:

1. Hold a bachelor’s degree.
2. Meet **at least one** of the following:
 - a. Has completed a major or 30 semester hours of content specific credit.
 - b. Has obtained a qualifying score on the appropriate subject area assessment.
 - c. Has been enrolled in the residency program for at least one year.
3. Enrolled in an alternate route to certification program or post-baccalaureate degree program leading to certification.

REC considerations:

- Resident Educator Certificates are valid for two years.
- While employed in a public school, a person holding a Resident Educator Certificate (REC) shall be the teacher of record, under the supervision of the superintendent, principal, administrator or supervisor designated by the superintendent, for at least 10 school months. They may serve in other roles during the 20-month period of the REC.
- Candidates participating in a residency program using experience under a REC instead of traditional student teaching are not eligible for a DSAP.