



Make An Educated Choice..... Read Our Certification Newsletter



Connecticut State Department of Education

Issue 10

July 2002

The 2001-2002 school year was a busy one for the Bureau: new requirements for criminal background checks have taken effect; new assessments for world languages were adopted, and the ARC program expanded.

The coming year will see a change in Bureau leadership. Dr. Hilary E. Freedman is retiring, and Dr. Peter Behuniak will become Acting Bureau Chief in August.

We hope the information contained in this newsletter is of help. Our website is continually updated – please be sure to check it frequently. www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/cert/index.htm

Assessment Updates:

Praxis I – PPST has replaced the Praxis I – CBT.

Praxis I Waiver packets are available from, and processed by, the Bureau.

ACTFL OPI and WPT exams replaced Praxis II exams in Spanish, German, French, and Italian. A score of “Intermediate High” is required. Teachers may register for ACTFL by calling 914-948-5100, or on line at www.languageesting.com

Connecticut Administrator Test (CAT) is required for persons applying for certification as intermediate administrators or supervisors who are eligible for issuance of an initial or interim initial educator certificate. CAT information is available from Heidi Goldsher at EASTCONN at 860-455-0707.

Legislative Action:

An Act Concerning Sexual Assault by a Coach or Instructor, Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse or Neglect and Issuance and Revocation of Educator Certificates (Public Act 02-106)

The crimes of sexual assault in the 2nd and 4th degrees have been expanded to include sexual intercourse (2nd degree) or sexual contact (4th degree) with another person when the actor is a coach in an athletic activity or a person who provides intensive, ongoing instruction and the other person is the recipient of such coaching or instruction and (1) is a secondary school student and receives such coaching or instruction in a secondary school setting or (2) is under 18 years of age. (Effective October 1, 2002.)

Coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics are mandated

child abuse reporters. (Effective October 1, 2002)

Fines for mandated child abuse reporters who fail to make child abuse reports have been increased to not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,500. (Effective October 1, 2002)

Internet Updates:

Our website has certification forms and applications which can be downloaded, completed, and mailed to the Bureau. There also is information on CEUs, Title IX, multicultural education, and an on-line presentation for graduates of Connecticut Educator Preparation Programs.

Durational Shortage Area Permits (DSAP):

A superintendent of schools may request a DSAP if a shortage area has been established, or if a position cannot be filled by an appropriately certified applicant. In order to review the request for issuance of a DSAP, the following credentials must be submitted:

- A DSAP application (ED 177);
- Praxis I PPST or Praxis I (PPST) waiver. (Not required if the applicant holds a valid Connecticut certificate);
- Official transcripts indicating the completion of a minimum 12 semester hours of credit in the subject for which the DSAP will be issued. (Official transcripts indicating the completion of a bachelor’s degree must be included if the applicant has never held certification in Connecticut).
- A letter from the superintendent of schools listing specific locations and dates of recent media advertisements for the position and outlining the steps taken to secure an appropriately certified applicant. If appropriately certified applicants applied for this position, include a statement as to why these candidates were not suitable for the position. If the media advertisements are not recent, include an explanation as to how this position has been filled so far during the school year.

and ONE of the following:

- ED 177 – Part VIII verifying enrollment in a planned

program leading to certification in the subject requested or a letter verifying that the applicant has made application to enroll in a planned program leading to certification in the subject requested. The form or letter must be completed and signed by the Certification Officer. A letter of application or acceptance into a master's degree program does not meet this requirement.

A copy of the letter of acceptance into the Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program. (Application for admission to the ARC program is not acceptable to meet this requirement.)

DSAP Renewal

ED 177 – Part I, II, III, IV, VI, VII

Official transcripts of any course work completed while holding the DSAP.

Reminders:

Priority Review forms should be submitted with a candidate's application. Please remember that a priority form only works effectively when all of the required information (transcripts, experience, etc.) is on file in the Bureau. The forms should only be used when a district is interested in hiring an individual and needs to determine certification status prior to issuing a contract.

Certificate validity dates are determined by the date that an application is received in our office, if all requirements have been met at that time.

During the summer the evaluation of applications may take 6 to 8 weeks.

There are many ways to contact the Bureau.

Web Site: www.state.ct.us/sde - Check the State Department of Education (SDE) web site if you have any questions. The SDE website provides fact sheets, guides to assessments and teacher preparation programs, lists of approved courses, forms to download, links to related web sites, and other valuable information.

Email: teacher.cert@po.state.ct.us - General questions may be sent by e-mail. Including your name, address, and social security number will expedite a response. A detailed evaluation of your credentials cannot be done by e-mail.

FAX: (860) 713-7017 – FAX questions or requests for course approvals. Do not FAX applications or requests to review unofficial transcripts. A FAX is handled as correspondence and will be entered as such and given to the appropriate consultant for a response in a timely manner. Including your name, address, phone number, social security number, and e-mail address will expedite a response.

Telephone: (860) 713-6969 – Available 24 hours a day to check status of an application. Once a certificate has been issued, a Faxed verification can be requested by using the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System. To use the FAX verification option, listen to the prompts on the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System for instructions. Consultant support is available by phone for general questions Monday to Friday from 1:00-5:00 PM. (Dial "O" anytime after the greeting.)

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily (Monday-Friday). Applicants may pick up and drop off materials in Room 243, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, **however, we cannot provide any evaluation services at our reception area.**

Job Postings: The Connecticut Regional Education Application and Placement Program (REAP) www.ctreap.net

Mailing Address: Bureau of Certification and Professional Development
P.O. Box 150471
Hartford, Connecticut 06115-0471

Express Mail: Bureau of Certification and Professional Development
165 Capitol Avenue
Room 243
Hartford, Connecticut 06106