

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUREAU OF EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION**

TO: All Beginning Teachers Working Under Initial Educator or Interim Educator Certificates and TEAM District Facilitators

FROM: Nancy Pugliese, Chief
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DATE: October 23, 2009

SUBJECT: Passage of Legislation Establishing the Teacher Education And Mentoring (TEAM) Program

On October 2, 2009, the General Assembly passed Public Act No. 09-6, which included a provision establishing the Teacher Education And Mentoring (TEAM) Program. Pursuant to the Public Act, full implementation of the program will begin with the school year **commencing July 1, 2010**. Due to the late passage of this bill authorizing the new program, and in order to facilitate a smooth transition from BEST to TEAM, the 2009-10 school year will be dedicated as a development year for TEAM. Districts are encouraged to mentor all new teachers during this school year, but beginning teacher participation in TEAM will not officially begin until the **2010-2011 school year**.

The following will provide some answers to your questions:

How will beginning teachers who began in the BEST Program transition into TEAM?

All teachers who began a beginning teacher program in BEST and did not complete that program as of July 1, 2009 (year two and three this year), and who continue to teach during the 2009-10 school year, will be required to complete **two** of the five modules in 2010-2011. Upon successful completion of these two modules, they will be eligible for the provisional educator certificate at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

When will beginning teachers who are first hired this year (year one) and those who will be hired next year begin TEAM and what will their requirements be?

All new teachers who began teaching during the 2009-2010 school year, and those who will begin teaching in the 2010-2011 school year, who have had no previous BEST participation record, will be required to successfully complete the first two modules during the 2010-2011 school year, and the remaining three modules during the 2011-2012 school year, to fulfill eligibility for the provisional educator certificate.

What is the framework for the TEAM Program?

TEAM is being designed around five professional growth modules in order to provide a framework for support of new teachers. These five modules are focused on the following domains of the Common Core of Teaching (CCT): classroom environment, planning, instruction, assessment and professional responsibility. The modules are being designed collaboratively by a group consisting of RESC staff, CSDE staff, union representatives and higher education representatives.

How will the modules provide a framework for support?

Mentors and beginning teachers will work together to establish the focus of each module. The development of professional growth plans for the beginning teacher will be based on an individualized needs assessment completed by each beginning teacher. As part of each module, mentors and beginning teachers will focus on classroom practice – within the context of the teacher’s own students, teaching subject, grade level, curriculum requirements and school and district goals. At the culmination of each module, a written reflection paper will be submitted by the beginning teacher to a district or regional review committee to determine if the beginning teacher has successfully completed the module.

How will beginning teachers continue to teach if their initial educator certificates are lapsing in the near future?

All beginning teachers, whose initial educator certificates have a lapse date prior to or during their scheduled timeline for TEAM participation, will be eligible for an extension of their certificates as needed. Teachers are responsible for keeping their certifications current and should apply to extend their initial educator certificates prior the certificate’s expiration date using form ED 183. Applicants can apply online via the new CT Educator Certification system at www.ct.gov/sde/cert or may print off the paper form and submit it.

Updated information will be provided as available as the year progresses. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, you may call the TEAM Program Office at 860-713-6820.