



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Department of Education



TO: Approved Nonpublic and Independent Schools
Connecticut Association of Independent Schools
Archdiocese of Hartford
Diocese of Bridgeport
Diocese of Norwich

FROM: Nancy L. Pugliese, J.D., Chief
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

DATE: November 16, 2011

SUBJECT: An Act Concerning Nonpublic School Teaching Experience
and Certification

Public Act 11-127, effective July 1, 2011, impacts Sections 10-145a, 10-145b(h) and (i) and 10-220a of the Connecticut General Statutes. As a result, several important changes to maintaining educator certification for nonpublic school teachers are explained below.

Student Teaching Allowed in Nonpublic Schools

P.A. 11-127 states, in relevant part, that any teacher preparation program leading to certification may permit student teaching in a nonpublic school... provided that such student teaching is completed as part of the cooperating teacher program. Student teachers shall be placed with TEAM-trained cooperating teachers, in accordance with Section 10-220a(d).

Provisional Educator Certificate Holders

Certified teachers serving under a provisional educator certificate in an approved nonpublic school in Connecticut must meet eligibility requirements to advance from a provisional educator certificate to a professional educator certificate. Current eligibility requirements for a professional educator certificate include the completion of 30 school months of successful, full-time teaching experience under a provisional educator certificate and completion of 30 semester hours of undergraduate* or graduate credit beyond a bachelor's degree completed through a regionally accredited institution(s). The State Department of Education will no longer renew a provisional educator certificate for another 8-year period.

Please note that certified teachers serving in an approved nonpublic school under a provisional educator certificate that have not completed the required 30 credits in coursework beyond a bachelor's degree, must apply for another provisional educator certificate with a "balance of time." A balance of time will be issued to an individual to allow time for him/her to complete 30 semester hours of credit beyond a bachelor's degree. A balance of time is calculated as time served between July 1, 2011, and the certificate expiration date, subtracted from eight calendar years. Absent a documented medical hardship at the time of application, no further extension to complete required coursework may be granted.

Professional Educator Certificate Holders

Prior to the enactment of P.A. 11-127, professional educator certificate holders serving in an approved nonpublic school in Connecticut were not mandated to complete 9.0 (90 contact hours) of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) during the five-year period for which the professional educator certificate was issued.

However, effective July 1, 2011, educators serving in an approved nonpublic school in Connecticut under a professional educator certificate are now required to complete 9.0 CEUs. Specific CEU requirements, as part of the 9.0 CEUs, are determined by the endorsement that the certificate holder is serving under at the time of application. Please refer to the "Chart – CEU Requirements" available on our website at:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&q=321400>.

A certified teacher may complete three semester hours of graduate credit through any regionally accredited institution, which is the equivalent of 4.5 CEUs, so long as the coursework is completed during the five-year period of a professional educator certificate. In addition, individuals may elect to complete professional development activities offered through any approved Connecticut CEU provider that appears on the list of Approved Connecticut CEU Providers – Businesses and Organizations, available on our website. Please contact the Connecticut CEU Provider directly for activities offered and cost of attendance. A local board of education is able to offer CEU equivalents to their employees for the completion of professional development activities outside of the district. However, approved nonpublic schools are not local boards of education; therefore, they may not issue CEU equivalents to their certified employees.

Professional educator certificate holders serving in an approved nonpublic school in Connecticut with a certificate that will expire within the next five years and that have not completed the required 9.0 CEUs, may apply for a continuation of a professional educator certificate issued with a "balance of time." A balance of time is calculated as time served between July 1, 2011, and the certificate expiration date, subtracted from five calendar years.

In order to determine a certified teacher's eligibility for a balance of time, the certificate holder must submit a completed application (ED179) for continuation of a professional educator certificate, along with a Statement of Professional Experience (ED126) signed by the Superintendent of the Diocese or the Headmaster of a non-diocesan school. Please note that the teacher may submit an ED179 not more than six months prior to the expiration date on their current professional educator certificate. Teachers may submit an online application in lieu of the ED179 using the online Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS) button that is located on our website at: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&Q=321230>. However, a paper copy of the ED126 must be signed and sent via U.S. mail.

It is incumbent upon the school to advise certified educators employed by the Diocese or in an approved nonpublic or independent school about these statutory requirements. The State Department of Education does not collect employment information for certificate holders serving for agencies other than a Connecticut public school district. Therefore, please take the time to review this material with your certified teachers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday at (860) 713-6969, between 12-4 p.m., or contact this office in writing or by fax at (860) 713-7017.

*Effective July 1, 2016, thirty semester hours of graduate coursework will be required to advance teaching certificates to the professional level. Undergraduate coursework will no longer be accepted. (See P.A. 09-1, Sec. 2.)

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