

Commissioner Update

July 20, 2009

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have one item for you in this update.

On June 22, Governor Rell signed into law *Public Act 09-1, An Act Concerning Educator Certification and Professional Development and Other Education Issues*. The General Assembly passed this bill during the June 19 special session.

The following is a summary of the act. Provisions became effective July 1 unless otherwise indicated. Click the corresponding link in brackets to access the full text of a particular item.

For questions about this legislation, please contact Jennifer Widness in the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs at 860-713-6515 or jennifer.widness@ct.gov. For questions about teacher certification, please contact Nancy Pugliese in the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification at 860-713-6708.

Public Act 09-1, June 19 Special Session:

[An Act Concerning Educator Certification and Professional Development and Other Education Issues](#)

Teacher Preparation Programs

- a) On and after July 1, 2012, candidates entering teacher preparation programs must complete training in competency areas contained in the professional teaching standards established by the State Board of Education. (Note: These pre-service competency areas will be incorporated into the revised Common Core of Teaching.) [\[Section 1, page 3\]](#)
- b) The definition of the alternate route to certification program is expanded to allow other entities to offer such programs, including the Department of Higher Education, public or private institutions of higher education, regional education service centers, and private teacher or administrator training organizations approved by the State Board of Education. [\[Section 2, page 5\]](#)
- c) On and after July 1, 2010, local or regional boards of education must fingerprint individuals seeking placement in the district for the purpose of completing educator preparation requirements in nonpaid, noncertified positions (e.g., student teachers, interns, etc.). [\[Section 8, page 35\]](#)

Teacher Certification

- a) On or after July 1, 2016, candidates for a professional educator certificate must complete a minimum of 30 hours of graduate coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. Currently, candidates for a professional certificate must complete a minimum of 30 hours of graduate *or* undergraduate coursework. [\[Section 2, page 10\]](#)
- b) On and after July 1, 2012, only Connecticut public school teaching experience will qualify for issuance of a professional educator certificate. A

- nonpublic schoolteacher may use private school teaching experience to renew a provisional educator certificate. [\[Section 2, page 11\]](#)
- c) Applicants for an administrator certification (092 or 093 endorsements) may be exempt from the Praxis I requirements when that person: 1) holds a valid school administrator certificate in another state that the State Board of Education determines is equivalent to an initial educator certificate in Connecticut; 2) is applying for a certificate in a school administrator endorsement area; and 3) has three years of successful experience as a school administrator within the 10 years before applying for the administrator certificate. [\[Section 3, page 21\]](#)
- d) The competency examination and subject area assessment may be waived for certified, experienced teachers who hold a valid certificate equivalent to an initial educator certificate from another state, and who 1) have at least three years of successful teaching experience within the 10 years before application, or 2) hold a master's degree in the academic subject area for which they seek certification. (Note: This provision does not apply to nonteaching endorsement areas.) [\[Section 3, page 25\]](#)
- e) Temporary certification requirements for bilingual education teachers are extended for an additional year, until July 1, 2010. [\[Section 4, page 26\]](#)
- f) Authority is transferred to the Commissioner of Education from the State Board of Education for approving time extensions for provisional or professional certificate holders to meet the requirements for obtaining or maintaining a professional certificate. [\[Section 6, page 28\]](#)
- g) Detailed language of the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel adopted in 1969 is replaced with broad language permitting the Commissioner of Education or the Commissioner's designee to establish or join interstate agreements to foster certification of qualified candidates from other states. [\[Section 7, page 28\]](#)
- h) On and after July 1, 2010, the State Board of Education must allow applicants for certification to teach in subject shortage areas to substitute an excellent score on subject area assessments in shortage areas determined by the Commissioner in lieu of the subject area major requirement for certification. The Board will establish the excellent score criteria before July 1, 2010. [\[Section 10, page 38\]](#)
- i) A new three-year adjunct arts instructor permit is established to allow noncertified professionals to teach music, art, theater, dance or any other subject related to the person's artistic specialty in part-time interdistrict arts magnet schools, on a part-time basis. (Note: New certification forms are being developed to facilitate these requests.) [\[Section 11, page 38\]](#)
- j) A new resident teacher certificate is established for teachers participating in alternate route programs such as Teach for America. (Note: New certification forms are being developed to facilitate these requests.) [\[Section 13, page 41\]](#)
- k) As of July 1, 2011, the State Department of Education may no longer authorize qualified graduates of a national teacher corps training program (such as Teach for America) to work in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven or charter schools in Stamford under special durational shortage area permits (DSAPs) issued by the State Board of Education. [\[Section 14, page 42\]](#)

Professional Development Activities

- a) On and after July 1, 2011, local and regional boards of education must fully consider priorities relating to student outcome needs as determined by

the State Board of Education when establishing professional development activities. [\[Section 2, page 15\]](#)

- b) Each local or regional school board must establish a professional development committee consisting of certified employees, other school personnel and bargaining unit representatives to create a professional development plan for district teachers, based on the educational goals prepared by the local or regional board of education and, on and after July 1, 2011, in full consideration of the priorities and needs related to student outcomes as determined by the State Board of Education. [\[Section 16, page 44\]](#)

Teacher Revocations and Dismissals

- a) A person whose certificate, permit or authorization that has been revoked may not be employed in a public school (in any capacity) during the period of revocation. [\[Section 2, page 18\]](#)
- b) Local and regional boards of education and approved private special education facilities must report to the Commissioner of Education all dismissals for cause due to moral misconduct, pursuant to section 10-151(d)(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes. [\[Section 2, page 18\]](#)
- c) The prohibition of the State Board of Education from issuing or reissuing a certificate, permit or authorization to individuals convicted of certain crimes is extended to include those convicted of 1) criminal attempt to commit a crime (CGS § 53a-49), and 2) enticing a minor under age 16, through an interactive computer service, to engage in prostitution or sexual activity for which the actor may be charged with a crime (CGS § 53a-90a). [\[Section 2, page 17 and Section 5, page 27\]](#)

Behavior Analysis Services for Children with Autism

- a) The Attorney General must, in consultation with the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education, report to the Education Committee by January 1, 2010, on an investigation performed in Connecticut regarding behavior analysis services for children with autism spectrum disorder and make recommendations for the appropriate in-state certifying agency for behavioral analysis services. [\[Section 12, page 41\]](#)

Substitute Teachers

- a) The Commissioner of Education's may not grant waivers from the requirement that substitute teachers have at least a bachelor's degree. [\[Section 15, page 44\]](#)

Fiscal Stabilization Funds

- a) Effective from passage (June 22, 2009), a municipality may reduce its budgeted appropriation for 2009-10 to the local or regional board of education by an amount up to the limit of the federal fiscal stabilization funds received directly by the board. [\[Section 19, page 47\]](#)

Cooperative Arrangements

- a) Boards of education may establish cooperative arrangements for special education services and health care services, in addition to a number of other items already provided for in statute. [\[Sections 20 and 21, page 48\]](#)
- b) Charter schools may enter into cooperative agreements to the same extent that local and regional boards of education may do so under section

10-158a of the Connecticut General Statutes, provided the Commissioner of Education approves such arrangements. [\[Section 22, page 50\]](#)

J.M. Wright Technical High School and Norwalk Community College Pilot Program

- a) Within available appropriations, J.M. Wright Technical High School and Norwalk Community College must establish a pilot program on or before January 1, 2010 to operate during the school year commencing July 1, 2010. [\[Section 23, page 55\]](#)

Magnet School Enrollment Notification Date

- a) Interdistrict magnet schools must inform districts by May 15 of an estimated number of students from that district who may attend that school in the fall. [\[Section 24, page 55\]](#)

Timothy Dwight Elementary School

- a) Seats must be reserved for students who live within a 0.5-mile radius of a new charter school in New Haven for the school years commencing July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2015. [\[Section 25, page 57\]](#)

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education