

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD
AD HOC 13A COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 5, 2025 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

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DRAFT MINUTES

Call To Order: 8:52 a.m.

Attendance (all virtual):

Attendees: Kristen Basiaga, Rebecca Good, Cynthia Ritchie, Anne Dichele

Guests: Benjamin Feit (CPRL)

Absentees: Shannon Marimon, Sarah Lahr-Fitzsimons, Dr. Katherine Roe, Jennifer Rodriguez

Review and Approval of Minutes (April 8, 2025, May 5, 2025): Unable to vote on minutes until we have a quorum.

Update on proposed Superintendent Waiver from May 12, 2025 Certification Board meeting

Superintendent Waiver Proposal from Kristen Basiaga

The CT Educator Preparation and Certification Board will create a one-year **pilot** of a superintendent waiver pathway for prospective educators to demonstrate their minimum for content knowledge. This alternate minimum content knowledge pathway will be available for prospective educators who:

- Have met all other requirements for initial certification except passing the content knowledge assessment,
- Achieve a score within three standard error measurements (SEM) or 15% of the cut score, whichever is the larger

These prospective educators may apply for a waiver through the State Department of Education. The prospective teacher will submit evidence showing:

- having met all other requirements for initial certification,
- an attempt at passing the standardized, minimum content area assessment, achieving a score equal to or within three standard error measurements (SEM) or the cut score or 15% of the cut score
- **10 full months (1 year)** of successful, appropriate, full-time teaching experience as the teacher of record at a Connecticut public school while holding a temporary teaching certificate, and
- attestation from district superintendent or designee.

Upon review of evidence, the SDE will consider the minimum content knowledge fulfilled.

- Kristen Basiaga met with the Talent Office from the State Department of Education.
 - CSDE suggested we say this is a pilot of a pathway. By having this as a pilot, we will be able to see how it goes for a year, ask for a report from the State Department of Education, and get feedback on how this is affecting our workforce.
 - CSDE suggested one full year (10 months) of teaching as the teacher of record.
 - CSDE will be switching from C.E.C.S. (Connecticut Educator Certification System) to a new program for reporting certification. Shuana Tucker believes they can build this into the new system so EPPs will be able to see how their graduates have done and whether they get the Superintendent waiver.
 - TEAM would not be the best place to put content. They are planning to redo TEAM modules and Boston University is doing a study with the State of Connecticut to figure out how to best do so. With the number of different certifications and content areas, it would not be feasible for the state to create those modules as part of TEAM.

Discussion continued with mention of Rebecca Good's proposal.

Two Waiver Option Proposal from Rebecca Good

All candidates will take the current state approved content knowledge exams (ie. Praxis II, Foundations of Reading, Praxis Early Childhood Education test)

Group 1: Candidates who pass the exams on the first time have fulfilled the minimum content knowledge expectation

Group 2: Candidates who do not pass 1 or more exams but come within range to be eligible for the Praxis II bridge will complete the bridge which fulfills the minimum content knowledge expectation

Group 3: Candidates who do not pass 1 or more and do not come within range to be eligible for the Praxis II and have completed all EPP requirements can select between the following two waiver options:

Waiver Option 1: EPP Approved Waiver - Candidate completes extra course/support determined by EPP and EPP submits waiver as part of the recommendation for certification to the state.

Waiver Option 2: District Approved Waiver - Candidate works as the teacher of record under temporary license for a minimum of 10 months and participates in district approved observations, the district superintendent or designee submits waiver.

Waivers are submitted to SDE and no further review is needed; the waiver meets the fulfillment of minimum content knowledge.

- Anne Dichele: We are talking about the difference between pedagogy and content assessment. We are really talking about content assessment here, so we have to keep that clarification out there. We are also talking about the differentiation between people who know their content but don't test well and people who truly don't know their content and therefore don't test well.

- Cynthia Ritchie would like to see the person have the opportunity to be in the classroom to set an annual goal, specifically to demonstrate content mastery. Three observations of this teacher per year by the supervisor, with the specific requirement to comment on the observation of the teacher's content mastery. If you did that for two years, that would be six observations, which is normal practice for pretty much all teachers, especially non tenured. That collection of observations with specifics about content knowledge can be shared with EPPs or all along the EPPs could maybe come into one of the mid-year meetings to see how the candidate is doing. At the same time, the EPP could offer tools, at no cost, to help with professional learning. Then, I feel like we have the two pieces because we can't put people in a classroom without a support plan.

Discussion continued.

- Possible minimum of 10 hours of content specific professional development and two content specific observations.
- Mutually agreed upon professional development.
- Reimbursement for coursework and professional development.

On Monday, Rebecca Good would like to spend time discussing these two options.

Action Item(s):

- Kristen Basiaga and Rebecca Good will send Jennifer Rodriguez their updated proposals for discussion at the June 9, 2025 Certification Board meeting.

Adjournment: 9:43 a.m.