



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Sarah J. Barzee, Chief Talent Officer

DATE: October 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification Update

The Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, an integral part of the Talent Office at the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), is committed to helping CT schools and districts attract, prepare, induct, support, develop and retain excellent educators. I am writing to update you on important changes in the bureau.

While I have had oversight of the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification for the past four years, I am pleased to announce that I now manage and lead day-to-day operations of the bureau. Nancy Pugliese has moved to the CSDE's Office of Legal and Government Affairs to focus specifically on issues of professional standards and professional practice. The certification team and I continue to work hard to improve our support of teachers, schools and districts.

ED 126 Statement of Professional Experience:

We have determined that once educators reach the professional level, the ED 126 Statement of Professional Experience is not essential to renewal. Therefore, in an effort to streamline certification processes, we will no longer require it to renew a professional educator certificate. We will update our forms and website to reflect this change. In the meantime, please inform educators in your district.

Since the ED 126 is no longer required for all applications, it is especially important that you inform our office of any educator whose experience is not successful. This will not necessarily prevent the educator from holding a certificate, but it would trigger further review.

Superintendent's Line:

Effective October 3, 2016, we have assigned your district to a dedicated certification analyst to answer your certification questions directly. Please see the attachment for the name and direct phone line to reach the senior analyst assigned to your district.

We have also extended the hours of the superintendents' line. The analysts will take calls Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If they are not available at the time you call, you may leave a message, which will generally be returned within one business day.

Electronic Transcripts:

Many higher education institutions now offer a service whereby official electronic transcripts may be emailed rather than sent by US mail. Please be aware that candidates for positions in your schools may expedite the application process by having official electronic transcripts emailed to our office at teacher.etranscript@ct.gov.

Highly Qualified Status:

We have received numerous inquiries from districts about reporting highly qualified status to parents. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) no longer requires school districts to report the highly qualified status of teachers to parents. However, **LEAs are required to continue to notify parents that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of teachers, and that the LEA will provide this information upon request.**

Guidance from the US Department of Education on the transition to ESSA is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/faq/essa-faqs.pdf>. Information on parent notification and highly qualified status is located on pages 14 to 15.

Durational Shortage Area Permits:

With the transition to ESSA, educators who serve under a DSAP are no longer required to meet the federal definition of “highly qualified,” and are therefore eligible for issuance of a DSAP with a test deficiency. As of August 1, 2016, with the sunset of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, a district may request a DSAP for a candidate who meets all other DSAP eligibility requirements, but has not yet passed Connecticut’s required certification assessments.

If you have questions or comments on any of the above changes, please direct them to your superintendents’ line contact, listed in the attachment. You may also contact me at 860-713-6848 or at sarah.barzee@ct.gov.