

Sec. 10-145d-412. Initial educator certificate

(a) **Conditions for issuance.**

(1) The initial educator certificate shall be issued to any applicant who has met the assessment, preparation and eligibility requirements, as appropriate.

(2) The applicant shall hold a bachelor's degree and have completed either as part of or in addition to the bachelor's degree program in accordance with Section 10-145d-408 a planned program of preparation in the field and at the grade level for which certification is requested, except as otherwise provided in Sections 10-145d-477, 10-145d-497, 10-145d-511, 10-145d-516, 10-145d-526, 10-145d-552 and 10-145d-589. Such program shall have been completed at an approved institution and shall be approved by the Board or other appropriate governing body in the state in which the institution is located for the preparation of educators in the requested field, subject area or grade level. On and after July 1, 1993, each applicant for certification shall have completed a subject-area major, as appropriate.

(3) An applicant who has not completed a required planned program of preparation in the field, subject area or grade level for which certification is requested may submit the following in lieu of the college or university recommendation for certification:

(A) Evidence of 20 school months of successful teaching or service in the subject area or field appropriate to the subject area or field for which the initial educator certificate is sought, except that substitute teaching may not be considered towards meeting this requirement, as evidenced by a signed recommendation from the employing agent, in the following:

(i) The same public school system, approved nonpublic school or nonpublic school approved by the appropriate governing body in another state or for purposes of obtaining adult education certification in accordance with Sections 10-145d-594, 10-145d-599 and 10-145d-604 of the regulations in the same cooperating eligible entity pursuant to Section 10-69 of the Connecticut general statutes; or

(ii) A state education agency as a professional or managerial staff member, in accordance with Section 10-145d-530 and 10-145d-574; or

(iii) A state education agency as a managerial staff member, in accordance with Section 10-145d-585.

(B) Evidence of having served successfully under a temporary 90-day certificate and having met the assessment requirements, as appropriate, and the following requirements:

(i) Submission of a request from the employing agent of the board of education that an initial educator certificate be issued, and a statement from such employing agent attesting to the existence of a plan for the supervision of such initial educator certificate holders;

(ii) Presentation of a signed recommendation from the employing agent of the board of education attesting to successful teaching, under the temporary 90-day certificate; and

(iii) Evidence that the applicant has received orientation, including instruction in board of education policies and procedures, provided by the employing board of education.

(4) The applicant shall be required to complete a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than 36 clock hours, which shall include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in the regular

classroom.

(A) On and after July 1, 1996, an applicant who holds certification in one endorsement area shall be required to fulfill this special education course requirement to obtain certification in the following additional endorsement areas: reading and language arts consultant, intermediate administration or supervision, superintendent of schools, speech and language pathology, school nurse teacher, school dental hygienist-teacher, school counselor, school psychology, school social work.

(B) An applicant who fulfills all requirements for issuance of the initial educator certificate but lacks a course of study in special education, may be issued an interim educator certificate with a deficiency, provided such applicant completed a teacher preparation program either in the state prior to July 1, 1987, or outside the state, or completed the necessary combination of professional experience or course work.

This deficiency in a special education course of study shall be satisfied prior to receipt of further certification.

(C) An applicant who fulfills all requirements for issuance of the initial educator certificate but lacks a course of study in special education, may be issued an interim educator certificate valid for one year and reissued for a second year, provided the applicant is applying for certification in an area for which a bachelor's degree is not required. This deficiency in a special education course of study shall be satisfied prior to receipt of further certification.

(5) The applicant who holds or previously held a durational shortage area permit, and who was not required to fulfill the CONNTENT, Praxis II, CONNECT requirement, as appropriate, for issuance of such permit, shall be required to fulfill the CONNTENT, Praxis II, CONNECT requirement, as appropriate, to obtain initial educator or provisional educator certification.

(b) Duration of initial educator certificate.

The initial educator certificate shall be valid for one year except:

(1) That it may be extended for an additional year upon a finding of good cause by the Commissioner, based upon a request by the employing agent;

(2) The applicant who held an interim initial educator certificate of less than one year's duration and who is otherwise eligible for an initial educator certificate shall be issued an initial educator certificate valid for one year minus the duration of the interim initial educator certificate;

(3) As otherwise provided in subsection (a) of Section 10-145d-405 and Section 10-145d-427;

(4) That it may be reissued to an applicant who held an initial educator certificate and did not successfully complete the BEST assessment, provided such applicant submits evidence acceptable to the Board demonstrating significant intervening study and experience; and

(5) That it shall be valid for one and one-half years for any applicant who has taught successfully under a temporary 90-day certificate and has met the assessment requirement, as appropriate, and the requirements of subsection (a) (3) (B) of this section.

(c) The holder of an initial educator certificate employed by a board of education shall, as a condition for holding said certificate, successfully complete the BEST assessment, as

shall be made available by the Board.

(d) Professional experience in lieu of student teaching, practicum or internship.

Ten school months of successful teaching completed within ten years prior to entry into an approved planned program, at the grade level, subject or field appropriate to the endorsement area for which the application is made, excluding substitute teaching or experience, may be accepted as grounds for waiving the student teaching or practicum or internship requirements for certification, provided the waiver is recommended by the preparing college or university and provided the experience was completed:

- (1) In the employ of a board of education, if the professional experience was covered by an appropriate certificate or permit;
- (2) In an approved nonpublic school or a nonpublic school in another state approved by the appropriate governing body in another state;
- (3) In a public school in another state; or
- (4) For purposes of obtaining adult education certification in accordance with Sections 10-145d-594, 10-145d-599 and 10-145d-604 of these regulations, in a cooperating eligible entity pursuant to Section 10-69 of the Connecticut general statutes.

(Effective July 1, 1995; Amended August 6, 1998)