



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6879**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER CERTIFICATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (f) [An] (1) On and after July 1, 2023, an endorsement [issued prior  
5 to July 1, 2013,] to teach elementary education [grades one to six,  
6 inclusive,] shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, [,  
7 and for such an endorsement issued on or after July 1, 2013, the  
8 endorsement shall be valid for grades one to six, inclusive, except such  
9 an endorsement issued between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2017, to any  
10 student who was admitted to and successfully completes a teacher  
11 preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, in the certification  
12 endorsement area of elementary education on or before June 30, 2017,  
13 shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six, inclusive. The  
14 Commissioner of Education may permit, upon the request of a  
15 superintendent, any person who holds such endorsement issued on or  
16 after July 1, 2017, to teach kindergarten for one school year. The  
17 commissioner shall not permit any such person who so taught  
18 kindergarten under such endorsement for one school year to teach  
19 kindergarten again, except the commissioner may permit such person  
20 to so teach kindergarten for one additional school year if such person

21 can demonstrate that he or she is enrolled in a program to meet the  
22 requirements for the appropriate endorsement to teach kindergarten.]  
23 Any endorsement issued prior to July 1, 2023, to teach elementary  
24 education grades one to six, inclusive, shall be valid for grades  
25 kindergarten to six, inclusive.

26 (2) An endorsement to teach comprehensive special education  
27 grades one to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades kindergarten  
28 to twelve, inclusive, provided, on and after September 1, 2013, any [(1)]  
29 (A) certified employee applying for a comprehensive special education  
30 endorsement, or [(2)] (B) applicant for an initial, provisional or  
31 professional educator certificate and a comprehensive special  
32 education endorsement shall achieve a satisfactory score on the  
33 reading instruction examination approved by the State Board of  
34 Education on April 1, 2009, or a comparable reading instruction  
35 examination with minimum standards that are equivalent to the  
36 examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1,  
37 2009.

38 Sec. 2. (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) There is established the Commission  
39 to Modernize the Educator Workforce. The commission shall be  
40 responsible for conducting a review and analysis of the statutes and  
41 regulations governing educator preparation programs and certification  
42 in accordance with the principles described in subsection (e) of this  
43 section, and making recommendations regarding educator preparation  
44 programs and certification in accordance with the provisions of  
45 subsection (f) of this section.

46 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

47 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
48 who shall be a representative of the Columbia University Center for  
49 Public Research and Leadership;

50 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
51 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public

52 School Superintendents;

53 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
54 Representatives, who shall be a representative from the Connecticut  
55 Education Association;

56 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
57 a representative from the American Federation of Teachers-  
58 Connecticut who is an educator in a classroom employed by a local or  
59 regional board of education;

60 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
61 Representatives, who shall be a representative from an educator  
62 preparation program offered at a public or independent institution of  
63 higher education in the state;

64 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
65 a representative from an alternate route to certification program in the  
66 state;

67 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
68 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
69 relating to education;

70 (8) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a representative  
71 from the Governor's Workforce Council, established pursuant to  
72 section 31-3h of the general statutes;

73 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

74 (10) A member of the State Board of Education, designated by the  
75 state board;

76 (11) A representative of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy  
77 Oversight Council, designated by the council; and

78 (12) Up to four appointed by the chairperson of the commission,  
79 who may be an in-service or preservice teacher, administrator or

80 person with expertise or experience in educator preparation or  
81 certification.

82 (c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not  
83 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any  
84 vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority not later than ten  
85 days after such vacancy occurs.

86 (d) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's  
87 designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the commission. The  
88 chairperson shall schedule all meetings of the commission, including  
89 the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than  
90 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

91 (e) While conducting a review and analysis of the statutes and  
92 regulations governing educator preparation programs and educator  
93 certification, the commission shall be guided by the following  
94 principles: (1) Avoidance of requirements that are overly broad or  
95 burdensome, including a consideration of whether the intended  
96 regulatory objectives may be obtained through less burdensome,  
97 nonregulatory means; (2) consideration of a requirement's costs and  
98 benefits, including an analysis of (A) existing research concerning how  
99 predictive each requirement is with respect to classroom effectiveness,  
100 (B) lessons from stakeholders' experiences with such requirements,  
101 and (C) the effect that such requirements have on educator supply and  
102 efforts to increase educator diversity; (3) reduction of instances in  
103 which a requirement poses a barrier to workforce mobility; and (4)  
104 commitment to developing requirements that are based on existing  
105 research findings.

106 (f) The commission shall develop recommendations regarding new  
107 requirements for educator preparation programs and certification.  
108 Such recommendations shall be developed following input from  
109 school district leaders, educators, preservice teachers and other state-  
110 wide education stakeholders. Such recommendations include, but  
111 need not be limited to, (1) streamlined, flexible pathways into the

112 educator profession that are grounded in commitment to educator  
113 effectiveness, (2) ways to enable in-service educators to broaden their  
114 scope of practice to meet more students' needs, (3) a means by which  
115 educator preparation programs are held accountable for both the  
116 quality of training experiences and outcomes for candidates, (4) the  
117 creation of a robust system to help in-service educators continuously  
118 improve their practice by supporting and rewarding educators who  
119 demonstrate mastery, (5) ways to support improved data transparency  
120 regarding the state's distribution of educators and educator vacancies,  
121 and accountability for remedying observed inequities, and (6) a system  
122 in which educators are treated as professionals and lifelong learners  
123 who deserve and require access to high-quality professional learning  
124 and mentorship throughout their careers.

125 (g) The commission may submit written requests to the Department  
126 of Education for data or other information that is relevant to the  
127 responsibilities of the commission. Not later than fifteen days after  
128 receipt of any such request, the department shall provide such data or  
129 other information to the commission and shall not withhold such data  
130 or other information unless the provision of such data or other  
131 information would violate any state or federal laws governing privacy.

132 (h) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
133 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
134 shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

135 (i) Not later than February 1, 2024, the commission shall submit a  
136 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
137 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
138 relating to education and higher education, in accordance with the  
139 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The commission  
140 shall terminate on July 1, 2024.

141 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023,  
142 the Office of Higher Education shall, utilizing existing resources, (1)  
143 expand the existing alternate route to certification program

144 administered by the office pursuant to section 10a-168a of the general  
145 statutes, and (2) hire one full-time permanent employee to administer  
146 said program.

147 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-145n of the general statutes is  
148 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
149 *1, 2023*):

150 (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this section, the  
151 State Board of Education, upon the request of a local or regional board  
152 of education or a regional educational service center, may issue an  
153 adjunct instructor permit to any applicant with specialized training,  
154 experience or expertise in the arts, as defined in subsection (a) of  
155 section 10-16b. Such permit shall authorize a person to hold a part-time  
156 position, of no more than fifteen classroom instructional hours per  
157 week at a part-time interdistrict arts magnet high school in existence  
158 on July 1, 2009, and approved pursuant to section 10-264~~l~~ or the  
159 Cooperative Arts and Humanities Magnet High School, as a teacher of  
160 art, music, dance, theater or any other subject related to such holder's  
161 artistic specialty. Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section,  
162 such applicant shall (1) hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an  
163 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for  
164 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally  
165 accredited, (2) have a minimum of three years of work experience in  
166 the arts, or one year of work experience and two years of specialized  
167 schooling related to such applicant's artistic specialty, and (3) attest to  
168 the State Board of Education that he or she has at least one hundred  
169 eighty hours of cumulative experience working with children, in a  
170 private or public setting, including, but not limited to, after school  
171 programs, group lessons, children's theater, dance studio lessons and  
172 artist-in-residence programs, or at least two years experience as a full-  
173 time faculty member at an institution of higher education.

174 Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is  
175 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
176 *1, 2023*):

177 (i) On and after July 1, [2016] 2023, any program of teacher  
178 preparation leading to professional certification shall require, as part of  
179 the curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student  
180 teaching experience in a classroom during four semesters of such  
181 program of teacher preparation. [Such clinical experience, field  
182 experience or student teaching experience shall occur: (1) In a school  
183 district that has been categorized by the Department of Education as  
184 District Reference Group A, B, C, D or E, and (2) in a school district  
185 that has been categorized by the department as District Reference  
186 Group F, G, H or I.] Such clinical experience, field experience or  
187 student teaching experience may include a cooperating teacher serving  
188 as a mentor to student teachers, provided such cooperating teacher has  
189 received a performance evaluation designation of exemplary or  
190 proficient, pursuant to section 10-151b, for the prior school year.

191 Sec. 6. Subsection (f) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is  
192 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
193 *1, 2023*):

194 (f) An endorsement issued prior to July 1, 2013, to teach elementary  
195 education grades one to six, inclusive, shall be valid for grades  
196 kindergarten to six, inclusive, and for such an endorsement issued on  
197 or after July 1, 2013, the endorsement shall be valid for grades one to  
198 six, inclusive, except such an endorsement issued between July 1, 2013,  
199 and July 1, 2017, to any student who was admitted to and successfully  
200 completes a teacher preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a,  
201 in the certification endorsement area of elementary education on or  
202 before June 30, 2017, shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six,  
203 inclusive. The Commissioner of Education may permit, upon the  
204 request of a superintendent, any person who holds such endorsement  
205 issued on or after July 1, 2017, to teach kindergarten for one school  
206 year. The commissioner shall not permit any such person who so  
207 taught kindergarten under such endorsement for one school year to  
208 teach kindergarten again, except the commissioner may permit such  
209 person to so teach kindergarten for one additional school year if such

210 person can demonstrate that he or she is enrolled in a program to meet  
211 the requirements for the appropriate endorsement to teach  
212 kindergarten. An endorsement to teach comprehensive special  
213 education grades one to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades  
214 [kindergarten] prekindergarten to twelve, inclusive. [, provided, on]  
215 On and after September 1, 2013, any (1) certified employee applying  
216 for a comprehensive special education endorsement, or (2) applicant  
217 for an initial, provisional or professional educator certificate and a  
218 comprehensive special education endorsement shall achieve a  
219 satisfactory score on the reading instruction examination approved by  
220 the State Board of Education on April 1, 2009, or a comparable reading  
221 instruction examination with minimum standards that are equivalent  
222 to the examination approved by the State Board of Education on April  
223 1, 2009.

224 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, a  
225 coaching permit issued by the State Board of Education shall be valid  
226 for a period of five years. Any person who has been issued a coaching  
227 permit may apply to the state board for renewal of such coaching  
228 permit, and shall not be required to include in any renewal application  
229 a verification of the completion of fifteen clock hours of continuing  
230 education units.

231 Sec. 8. Section 10-8c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
232 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

233 The Department of Education, in cooperation with the Office of  
234 Higher Education, shall, within available appropriations, (1) establish  
235 an accelerated cross endorsement process for each subject shortage  
236 area pursuant to section 10-8b to allow certified teachers to add a new  
237 endorsement to their certificates, [and] (2) establish a program for  
238 formerly certified teachers to regain certification, and (3) on and after  
239 July 1, 2023, authorize the Integrated Early Childhood/Special Ed.,  
240 Birth-Kindergarten endorsement and the Integrated Early  
241 Childhood/Elementary Education N-3 and Special Education N-K  
242 endorsement to be added as a cross endorsement in lieu of requiring



243 full planned program and institutional recommendation.

244 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 10-145 of the general statutes is  
 245 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
 246 *1, 2023*):

247 (a) No teacher, supervisor, administrator, special service staff  
 248 member or school superintendent, except as provided for in section 10-  
 249 157, shall be employed in any of the schools of any local or regional  
 250 board of education unless such person possesses an appropriate state  
 251 certificate, nor shall any such person be entitled to any salary unless  
 252 such person can produce such certificate dated prior to or on the first  
 253 day of employment, except as provided for in section 10-157; provided  
 254 nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the board of  
 255 education from prescribing qualifications additional to those  
 256 prescribed by the regulations of the State Board of Education and  
 257 provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent any  
 258 local or regional board of education from contracting with a licensed  
 259 drivers' school approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for  
 260 the behind-the-wheel instruction of a driver instruction course, to be  
 261 given by driving instructors licensed by the Department of Motor  
 262 Vehicles. No person shall be employed in any of the schools of any  
 263 local or regional board of education as a substitute teacher unless such  
 264 person (1) holds a bachelor's degree, provided the Commissioner of  
 265 Education may waive such requirement for good cause upon the  
 266 request of a superintendent of schools, and (2) is on a list maintained  
 267 by the local or regional board of education pursuant to subsection (f) of  
 268 section 10-222c. A local or regional board of education may employ a  
 269 person as a substitute teacher in the same assignment without a  
 270 substitute authorization issued by the Department of Education for a  
 271 period not to exceed sixty school days.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10-145d(f)

Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145n(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145a(i)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145d(f)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-8c
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145(a)

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*