

Testimony Submitted by Jennifer Rodriguez  
Chair, Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB)  
Re: SB 1392 An Act Concerning Educator Certification  
March 3, 2025

Senator McCrory, Representative Leeper, and honorable Members of the Education Committee,

I am Jennifer Rodriguez, Chair of the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. I am a first-grade teacher in Newington and a student pursuing an additional master's degree. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 1392. The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board does not support this bill, as it proposes changes to the certification process that have not yet undergone the board's full review, as required by statute.

PA 24-41 established the Board to provide oversight on educator preparation and certification, ensuring high standards for the teaching profession. By statute, we collaborate with the State Department of Education to modernize and align educator preparation and certification, with a focus on attracting and retaining a diverse and highly qualified teaching workforce. The board is also responsible for developing proposals for regulations or legislation in these areas.

Specifically related to this proposed bill, CEPCB is charged with “reviewing the state's approach to assessing whether candidates for certification have demonstrated minimum content knowledge” and determining “whether alternative approaches should be offered.”

As part of this responsibility, CEPCB recently voted to maintain content area assessments (e.g., PRAXIS II) as one, but not the sole, option for candidates to demonstrate content mastery. To further this work, the board established an ad hoc committee to research and propose additional pathways for candidates to demonstrate content mastery, particularly in ways that directly relate to teaching effectiveness. The considerations outlined in SB 1392, along with other potential approaches, are part of this ongoing review process.

SB 1392 proposes changes to the certification process that have not yet undergone CEPCB's review, as required by statute. Additionally, key stakeholders – including educators, administrators, educator preparation program representatives, and policy leaders – have not been fully consulted in crafting this legislation. The board is committed to a comprehensive review that ensures any changes to certification uphold the integrity of the profession while addressing the needs of aspiring educators.

CEPCB, which is composed of 16 diverse stakeholders, has engaged in rigorous discussions to uphold high standards for teacher certification. Since our inaugural meeting on November 18, 2024, we have held 4 full meetings to align our policies with PA 24-41. This work is ongoing, and our board is committed to bringing forth statutory and regulatory recommendations in collaboration with the State Department of Education, as outlined in our statutory charge. SB 1392 would significantly alter this process and hastens the previously agreed-upon timeline of 2026 for implementing changes to certification requirements in a way that would compromise a thorough review.

As CEPCB continues its work, we will carefully evaluate the efficacy and feasibility of alternative options for demonstrating content mastery. Key considerations will include, but are not limited to:

- Validity and reliability
- Research basis
- Practicality and feasibility
- Cost to programs and candidates
- Alignment with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards that assess educator preparation program quality
- Timeline for implementation with fidelity
- Recruitment and retention of a highly qualified teaching workforce in Connecticut's public schools

It is essential that any expansion of options for demonstrating content mastery be implemented thoughtfully to ensure a positive and lasting impact on the teaching workforce. Following the process enacted just last year will help achieve this goal. For these reasons, CEPCB does not support SB 1392.

We welcome a collaborative discussion with the chairs and vice chairs of the Education Committee as we approach this important work together. This work should remain in the hands of the CEPCB, which is composed of diverse stakeholders who are carefully and thoughtfully evaluating educator preparation and certification to ensure high standards and equitable access to the profession. Ultimately, the decisions we make on preparation and certification will have a direct impact on those seeking certification and the children of Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Rodriguez

Chair, Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB)

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PA 24-41 tasks the CEPCB with

Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2024) (a) There is established the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. The board shall be responsible for modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to ensure that policies are optimized to attract and retain effective and diverse professionals for employment in the state's public schools. (b) The board shall develop standards and proposals for regulations or legislation relating to educator preparation and certification.

Such Substitute House Bill No. 5436 Public Act No. 24-41 26 of 84 standards and proposals shall reflect the teaching profession and respond to emerging understandings of effective, evidence-based practices and address the following objectives: (1) Building streamlined, flexible

pathways in the educator profession that are grounded in a commitment to educator effectiveness, (2) enabling educators to broaden their scope of practice to meet more students' needs, (3) ensuring educator preparation programs are accountable for both the quality training experiences and outcomes for candidates, (4) creating a system to help educators continuously improve their practice that supports and rewards educators who demonstrate mastery, (5) supporting improved data transparency regarding the state's distribution of educators and educator vacancies and accountability for remedying observed inequities, and (6) treating educators as professionals and lifelong learners who need access to high-quality professional learning and mentorships throughout their careers.

Reference materials attached which include the minutes of the board voting to keep Praxis.

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**Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board**

Monday, February 10th, 2025, 1:00-4:00pm

450 Columbus Blvd.

Plaza North Conference Room C and D

[YouTube Live](#)

***DRAFT MINUTES***

Call to Order at 1:03pm.

Attendance

In Person: Jennifer Rodriguez, Cynthia Ritchie, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Jennifer Graves, Patrice McCarthy, Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Margaret Gustafson, Rebecca Good

Virtual: Anne Dichele, Katherine Roe, Jennifer Delaney, Tiffany Caouette, Sarah Lahr-Fitzsimons

Absent: Bob Sartoris, Shannon Marimon

Review and approval of January 27, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes- Approved by Voice Vote  
unanimously.

Announcements

Update on Education Chair meeting

Administrator Hiring Process Update

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Presentation

Discussion and Questions after presentation.

Items for Discussion

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Discussion of shared ideas- the Board discussed their shared thoughts and ideas for requirements in Sections 10-14 of PA 24-41. Discussed development of recommendations related to requirements of Sec.13 (a)(3) of Public Act No. 24-41.

Sinthia Sone-Moyano moved the keep Praxis II and exploring alternative routes if Praxis II is not passed. Seconded by Kristen Basiaga.

Rebecca Good Amended the motion to continue to use subject area assessments articulated by the CSDE and add alternatives to be developed within the ad hoc committee.

Vote on Amd: Y- 13 N-1 (Katherine Roe) A/NV- 2 (Shannon Marimon, Bob Sartoris)

Vote on Motion: Y-13 N-0 A/NV- 2 (Shannon Marimon, Bob Sartoris) Abstain- 1 (Katherine Roe)

Flow charts provided by the Regulation Review Committee on the regulations process were shared with the board members but not discussed.

**Items Requiring Action**

- a. Alternate Route to Certification
- b. Code of Professional Conduct- Cynthia Ritchie moved to table this item until the next meeting. Rebecca Good seconded.

Rebecca Good Amended motion to table this item until the April 14, 2025 meeting.

Vote on Amd: Y-14 N-0 A/NV-2 (Shannon Marimon, Bob Sartoris)

Vote on Motion: Y- 13 N-0 A/NV-2 (Shannon Marimon, Bob Sartoris) Abstain- 1 (Jennifer Rodriguez)

- c. Review of upcoming deadlines

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d. Ad hoc committee formation(s)- Chair Rodriguez created two ad hoc committees.

Requirements in P.A. 24-41 Sec 12 (a)- subcommittee assignments: Rebecca Good, Elsa Batista, Jennifer Delaney, Jenny Graves.

Requirements in P.A. 24-41 Sec 13 (a)(3)- Cynthia Ritchie, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons, Katherine Roe, Anne Dichele, Kristen Basiaga.

Public Participation- no members of the public signed up to participate.

Kristen Basiaga made a motion to adjourn at 3:51pm. Unanimously voted to adjourn.

## **CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD**

Friday, February 28th, 2025, 12:00-1:30PM

<https://youtube.com/live/co9gnkmbH1A?feature=share>

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. Call to Order**

#### **II. Items for Discussion**

- a. Discussion – Raised SB 1392 (approximately 30 minutes)
- b. Discussion – P.A. 24-41 Sec 13(a)3 (approximately 60 minutes)

#### **III. Items Requiring Action**

- a. Report to Full Committee

#### **IV. Adjournment**

# **CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD**

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, 7-8AM

## **AGENDA**

I. Call to Order

II. Items for Discussion

a. Options for alternate paths:

- i. legislative proposal A
- ii. Bridge Program from the CSDE
- iii. Portfolio Option
- iv. Bachelors in content area
- v. Superintendent + CSDE observation and review

III. Items Requiring Action

a. Vote on report to Full Committee

IV. Adjournment