



Connecticut Education Association

Capitol Place, Suite 500
21 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106
860-525-5641 | cea.org

Governance

Kate Dias, President
Joslyn DeLancey, Vice President
Tara Flaherty, Secretary
Stephanie Wanzer, Treasurer

Executive Director

Todd Jaeck

Testimony of

Kate Dias

Connecticut Education Association

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

SB 1392 An Act Concerning Educator Certification

March 3, 2025

Senator McCrory, Representative Leeper, Senator Berthel, Representative Zupkus, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Kate Dias, and I am President of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA), which represents educators in over 150 school districts across the state. CEA opposes SB 1392.

Last year, through the work of this committee, PA 24-41 was enacted to establish the Connecticut Education Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB) to ensure that decisions about educator certification are made through a structured, expert-driven process with input from key stakeholders. The CEPCB is responsible for developing changes and modifications to educator preparation and certification in our state.

As part of this charge, the board recently voted to maintain content area assessments such as [Praxis II](#) while working to identify additional acceptable demonstrations of content knowledge. The attached data was included in the debate on this matter. In it you will find that 77% of test takers pass the Praxis on their first attempt. That number rises to 93% when we look at the best attempt. As you review this information, it is important to note

that while these tests should not be considered a singular determinant of potential teacher success, they do serve as a third-party validator of content knowledge. Most educators will be the first to tell you that although test scores are not the whole story, they can establish content mastery, which is important given the role of an educator. Recognizing that Praxis can serve as an unfair impediment to candidates who are well prepared to become successful teachers, we believe establishing an alternative for individuals impeded by the test would benefit the profession. The board, however, must establish that practice.

SB 1392 blatantly disregards the board's decision to preserve a content mastery validator. A vote in favor would override the very board that the legislature created to make these determinations. It also directly undermines the statutory authority of the Connecticut Education Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB).

Circumventing the CEPCB in this manner raises serious concerns about the integrity of our certification process. If the legislature does not allow the board to fulfill its statutory responsibility, it undermines the board's authority and purpose. The CEPCB did not introduce legislation this year because they require the necessary time to conduct this critical work. The creation of the board was, in part, aimed at preventing rushed decisions that would create confusion and potentially conflicting statutes and regulations. The goal was to create a process that included stakeholders and allowed for thoughtful improvements to the system. I realize we would like these processes to be more immediate, but quality change requires thoughtful consideration. Based on the work of the board I am certain you will be provided with meaningful improvements that maintain the high standards we value and increase the access to certification that is much needed.

I strongly urge you to reject SB 1392 and allow the CEPCB to continue its essential role in overseeing educator certification and developing thoughtful policies to modernize and improve our certification system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.