

# CERTIFICATION ALERT

Connecticut Educator Certification News from  
The Connecticut State Department of Education



Updated November 2016

## IMPORTANT UPDATE: MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENT

In 2012, the Connecticut General Assembly passed new legislation requiring a master's degree to advance provisional level educator certificates in teaching areas (elementary, early childhood, secondary education, special education, special subjects) to the professional level.

### **Educators who hold a certificate in a teaching area PRIOR to July 1, 2016:**

Educators who hold a Connecticut educator certificate with an effective date PRIOR to July 1, 2016, will not be impacted by the new master's degree requirement for that certificate. To maintain certification and advance to the professional level, educators who already hold a Connecticut educator certificate will be required to document award of at least 30 semester hours of credit beyond their bachelor's degree at regionally accredited colleges and/or universities.

### **Educators who hold a certificate in a teaching area issued for the first time on or after July 1, 2016:**

The new legislation (Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-145b (g)), states that "on or after July 1, 2016, to qualify for a professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a provisional educator certificate... shall hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as determined by the State Board of Education, related to such teacher's certification endorsement area."

A master's degree completed at a regionally accredited college or university that includes at least 15 graduate credits in content or content pedagogy meets the state's new master's degree requirement to advance a certificate in a teaching area\* from the provisional to the professional level. Please note that at least 30 school months of successful service in a Connecticut public or approved nonpublic school is also required.

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