

MAINTAINING CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION



CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

Bureau of
Educator Standards
and Certification

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DON'T LET YOUR CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR CERTIFICATES LAPSE!

Even if you are retiring, moving out of state or taking a leave from your teaching career, it is a good idea to maintain your Connecticut certification. It is much easier to maintain than it is to reestablish once a certificate lapses. After a lapse, you may be subject to new testing and coursework requirements, or lose an endorsement altogether if it becomes obsolete. If you are unsure of which form to use, you may submit an [ED 170 General Application](#) and a fee of \$50 prior to the expiration date on a certificate (up to six months prior).

By submitting an application before the expiration of your certificate, the certification is considered in process, pending materials and final evaluation. As long as the application includes the original signature of the applicant and the minimum fee of \$50 in the appropriate form, the application is considered timely, and additional signatures or application forms, supporting documents and final fee may be submitted later. Applicants are encouraged to submit the application and fee online with a credit card (VISA and MasterCard only) once they have created an account on the Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS) at www.ct.gov/sde/cert. Additional application materials may be sent separately by U.S. mail. Alternatively, paper applications may be submitted with a certified bank check or money order payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut." Please allow 10-12 business days for mail to reach our office.

IF YOU HAVE AN INITIAL EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

In general, for most teaching endorsements, to advance from an initial to a provisional level educator certificate, you must successfully complete the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) program, which is the state's current teacher induction program (formerly BEST), and at least 10 school months of appropriate experience under your initial educator certificate. OR you may serve successfully for at least 30 school months within the last 10 years in an approved nonpublic school or in a public school in another state under valid authorization from that state. For administrative, special services and other endorsements for which TEAM is not required, to advance from an initial to a provisional level certificate, you must document at least 10 school months of successful appropriate service in a Connecticut public school or 30 school months in an approved nonpublic school or in a public school in another state under valid authorization from that state.

Am I eligible for reissuance of my current initial educator certificate if I have not served under it?

Yes. Generally applicants who have not served under a three-year initial educator certificate that is about to expire may renew their certificate. You should apply online after creating an account on the Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS), and pay with a credit card (Visa or MasterCard only). Or you may submit an [ED 183 Application for Renewal](#) (pages 1 and 2 only) and a certified bank check or money order for \$200. Initial educator certificates may be renewed up to five times before educators are required to meet current coursework and testing requirements, provided applications are received prior to each expiration date.

Am I eligible for reissuance of my initial educator certificate if I have not served sufficient time to complete the teacher induction/mentoring (TEAM) program and/or 10 school months of successful employment?

Yes. If you served for a portion of the three-year certificate, but are not eligible to advance to the provisional level, you should apply online to renew your initial educator certificate and pay the \$200 fee with a MasterCard or Visa. Or you may complete pages 1 and 2 of the paper [ED 183 Application for Renewal](#) and submit it with an [ED 126 Statement of Professional Experience](#) and a certified bank check or money order for \$200. Initial educator certificates may be renewed up to five times before educators are required to meet current coursework and testing requirements.

If you may be eligible to advance your initial level certificate, you should apply online to "upgrade" and pay the \$250 fee with a MasterCard or Visa. Or you may submit an [ED 170 General Application](#), an [ED 126 Statement of Professional Experience](#), and submit at least the nonrefundable \$50 application review fee in the form of a certified bank check or money order only. Other forms or documentation may be requested for full evaluation. Eligibility, level of certification (initial or provisional) and final fee are determined upon completion of a full evaluation.

What is different about applying for the sixth reissuance of my initial educator certificate?

Applicants not serving for a Connecticut board of education at the end of the fifth reissuance must meet all preparation and eligibility requirements in effect at the time of application. If the application is submitted to the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification before the expiration date, transcripts and possibly other credentials will be evaluated to determine if all current requirements have been met. If the application is received after the expiration of the certificate, both coursework and testing requirements must be met before another certificate can be issued.

If my credentials are evaluated after my fifth reissuance and I do not meet the current coursework and eligibility requirements, will I be eligible to renew my initial educator certificate?

No. If all current coursework and eligibility requirements have not been met, the certificate will lapse. A new initial educator certificate cannot be issued until all current requirements have been met.

Can a lapsed initial educator certificate be reissued?

If you apply within five years of the expiration date of the first initial educator certificate, you may be eligible for reissuance provided all test requirements in effect at the time of application are met.

If you apply after five years of the expiration date of your first initial educator certificate, you must meet not only current testing, but also all coursework requirements, including three semester hours of credit in education technology, and in either alternative student assessment or child/adolescent development (except certain endorsements such as occupational subjects, as listed in educator certification regulations).

IF YOU HAVE A PROVISIONAL EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

You should always apply online from your account on the Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS) prior to the expiration date on your certificate. Or you may submit a paper [ED 170 General Application](#). If you apply online, you may pay the fee with a Visa or MasterCard. The paper application must be submitted with a certified bank check or money order. Either way, official transcripts, additional forms or other documentation may be requested for full evaluation. Eligibility, level of certification and final fee are determined upon completion of full evaluation.

In general, for most teaching endorsements, to advance from a provisional to a professional level educator certificate, you must complete at least 30 school months of successful teaching experience under your provisional certificate, as well as 30 semester hours of credit beyond your bachelor's degree at a regionally accredited college or university.

NOTE: On or after July 1, 2016, a master's degree in a related subject will be required.

Am I eligible for a Connecticut educator certificate if I hold a valid provisional educator certificate and have served under it for fewer than three years for a Connecticut board of education?

Yes.

- (1) If you served for a Connecticut board of education for at least 10 months and completed the teacher induction/mentoring (TEAM) program, you may be eligible for another provisional educator certificate.
- (2) If you successfully served for a Connecticut board of education for the school year immediately preceding the date of application, you may be eligible for a provisional educator certificate valid for 96 months, minus the time served for Connecticut boards of education.
- (3) If you did not serve for a Connecticut board of education for the school year preceding your application, you may be eligible for issuance of an initial educator certificate, as long as you meet all coursework and eligibility requirements in effect at the time of application.

Am I eligible for a Connecticut educator certificate if I hold a valid eight-year provisional educator certificate and have served under it for three or more years but have not completed the required coursework necessary for issuance of a professional educator certificate?

Yes. If you successfully served for a Connecticut board of education for three or more years, you may be eligible for a provisional educator certificate, valid for 96 months minus the time served. You must complete all coursework necessary to advance the certificate by the expiration of this "balance of time" certificate. No further extension is available.

Am I eligible for a Connecticut educator certificate if my provisional educator certificate has lapsed?

If your certificate has lapsed, you may be eligible for a certificate provided you meet all coursework, testing and eligibility requirements in effect at the time of application. The certificate level will be determined upon evaluation of your application and supporting documentation.

CONTINUATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

The Connecticut General Assembly recently passed legislation, PA 12-116, Sec. 36(i), which repeals all language regarding continuing education units (CEUs). Therefore, as of July 1, 2012, CEUs are no longer required to maintain Connecticut professional educator certificates. However, as of July 1, 2013, Connecticut school districts will be responsible for offering at least 18 hours of professional development per year to the educators they employ. This professional development will be tailored to the needs of individual educators. It will be the responsibility of the school districts to offer and track this professional development. Educators must be sure they receive appropriate professional development and keep careful records of completed activities.

When do I apply to continue my professional educator certificate?

You should apply to continue your certificate no earlier than six months and no later than six weeks before the date of expiration of your professional educator certificate. You should apply online after creating an account on the Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS). Or you may submit a paper [ED 179](#) and [ED 126](#). There is no fee for continuation of a professional certificate. The application must be received in our office BY the expiration date. Postmarks are NOT considered.

HOW TO APPLY AT ANY LEVEL

ONLINE CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

The quickest and easiest way to apply is from your account on the Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS). You can also check the status of existing applications or print a copy of your current certificate. You can pay certification fees online with a MasterCard or Visa.

PAPER APPLICATIONS

If you prefer, you may submit a paper application and pay the fee with a certified bank check or money order. **The paper application is NOT required if you apply online.**

To renew an initial educator certificate: [ED 183](#)

To continue a professional educator certificate: [ED 179](#)

To advance any certificate or if you are not sure: [ED 170](#)

OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If you have served under your most recent certificate, you should submit a completed [ED 126 Statement of Professional Experience](#) verifying your successful service.

To advance to the professional level, official transcripts may also be required if they have not been submitted since 2009. Transcripts submitted prior to 2009 have often been archived and are no longer available for review.

If you are unsure of what additional documentation is required, please submit the application and fee. We will advise you once they are reviewed. As long as the application and fee are received in our office prior to the expiration date, additional documentation can follow.

To create an account or log in to the CECS, go to <http://www.ct.gov/sde/cert>. Click on the blue button: "Log in to CECS."

To print paper applications or forms, go to <http://www.ct.gov/sde/certapps>.

RETIRED TEACHERS

Should I continue to keep my certificate active after I retire?

Although this is a personal decision, remember that it is much easier to maintain active certification than it often is to regain certification after a lapse, which may involve additional coursework or testing. It is sometimes hard to envision the opportunities and circumstances that may later lead to work in a school district, even as a substitute or a tutor. Most educators find that keeping their certificates active is simple and worthwhile. There is currently no fee or CEU requirement for holders of professional-level certificates.

How do I keep my certificate valid?

If you have a professional educator certificate, you must apply online or submit a completed paper [ED 179 Application for Continuation](#) before the expiration date. You may submit the application up to six months before the expiration date. Currently there is no fee to renew a professional educator certificate. You are no longer required to submit the form to a district for signature. However, if you worked for part of the period of the most recent certificate, an [ED 126 Statement of Professional Experience](#) may be requested.

If you hold any other level certificate and are unsure how to maintain your certificate, you should apply online from your account on the Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS) or submit an [ED 170 General Application](#) and a certified bank check or money order for \$50 before the expiration date on the certificate. If you apply online you may pay with a credit card (Visa or MasterCard only). You will be contacted with additional instructions.

Do I need to complete CEUs?

Holders of professional educator certificates are no longer required to complete CEUs to maintain their certificates. (See Continuation of the Professional Educator Certificate on [page 2](#).)

If you have any questions about maintaining your certification, please contact our office. Questions about retirement benefits and limits of service must be directed to the Teachers' Retirement Board. However, please note that in order to receive teacher retirement credit individual teachers must be teaching in a content area appropriate to their certification. Out-of-field teaching may reduce your teacher retirement credit.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Certification regulations change periodically. The information in this brochure is provided for your convenience, based on current regulations. It is your professional responsibility to stay informed about certification requirements. If your certificate lapses you may be subject to new coursework and testing requirements. Always submit an application and at least the nonrefundable application review fee of \$50 before the expiration date on each of your certificates.

Please note:

- Be sure to update your mailing and e-mail addresses with us, so that you receive any information sent;
- Check current regulations on our website at <http://www.ct.gov/sde/cert>;
- Questions about maintaining your certificate may be submitted by e-mail to teacher.cert@ct.gov or by fax to 860-713-7017;
- General questions about current requirements may be answered by phone at 860-713-6969, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, between noon and 4 p.m.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MAINTAINING
CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION:**

Web: <http://www.ct.gov/sde/cert>

E-mail: teacher.cert@ct.gov

(Please expect response to take up to
two weeks due to the volume of requests.)

Phone: 860-713-6969

Fax: 860-713-7017

Mail: Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification
Connecticut State Department of Education
P.O. Box 150471 – Room 243
Hartford, CT 06115-0471



This brochure will be
updated periodically at
<http://www.ct.gov/sde/cert>.