

IX.A.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:

January 3, 2018

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period January 3, 2018, through December 31, 2021, to Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), with annual progress reporting required until WCSU's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from WCSU in the following new certification areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
English Language Arts	7-12	Advanced	Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Advanced	Graduate
Science	7-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this third day of January, Two Thousand Eighteen.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

DATE: January 3, 2018

SUBJECT: New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Western Connecticut State University—New Master of Arts Content Areas (English language arts, history/social studies, science)

Executive Summary

Introduction

Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) and other organizations proposing new educator preparation programs must seek official approval through the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE). EPPs are required to participate in a Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) evaluation process designed to guide and support new program proposals. The proposal then moves forward to the CSDE Review Committee, which makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Education regarding new program approval based on evaluation findings (Attachment A). This report presents a summary of evaluation findings for the Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) proposal to add three new content areas—English language arts, history/social studies, and science—to an existing Master of Arts (MAT) Program and includes the Commissioner of Education’s recommendation for approval.

History/Background

WCSU consists of a main campus located in downtown Danbury and a smaller campus approximately three miles from the main campus. WCSU enrolls approximately 5,700 students across four schools — Ancell School of Business, School of Arts and Sciences, School of Professional Studies, and School of Visual and Performing Arts—and employs 222 full-time faculty members and 493 part-time faculty members. The Education and Educational Psychology Department, housed within the School of Professional Studies, partners with the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Fine and Applied Arts for the preparation of teacher candidates. The Department offers preparation programs at the bachelor's, Master's and doctoral levels, and serves approximately 800 students per year. WCSU educator preparation programs are currently fully approved by the CSBE and nationally accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

WCSU currently offers preparation programs in the secondary content areas of Spanish, biology and mathematics through its existing MAT Program. WCSU is seeking SBE approval to add three content areas—English language arts, history/social studies, and science—to its MAT Program.

In December 2016, WCSU submitted a proposal to the CSDE for the three new MAT content areas. During spring 2017, a CSDE evaluation team reviewed the proposal to evaluate the quality of the new proposed programs in the following areas:

- (1) design, scope and sequence, including coursework and fieldwork/clinical experiences;
- (2) candidate assessments, including data collection, analysis, and reporting methods;
- (3) faculty and instructor qualifications; and
- (4) resources to support training of program candidates and program viability.

CSDE consultants also reviewed the proposal for compliance with Connecticut statutory and regulatory requirements.

The evaluation team identified areas for improvement and was unanimous in its decision that the proposal be revised based on team feedback, re-submitted and reviewed again by the team. Based on a review of the revised proposal, the evaluation team unanimously recommended that the proposal move forward to the CSDE Review Committee. During a meeting on October 27, 2017, the Review Committee recommended full approval for the WCSU proposal. The Review Committee also recommended annual progress reporting until WCSU's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) site visit, currently scheduled for spring 2021, during which all WCSU educator preparation programs will be reviewed.

Recommendation and Justification

Based upon evaluation team findings and the recommendation of the CSDE Review Committee, I recommend that the WCSU MAT content areas—English language arts, history/social studies, and science—be granted full approval for the period January 3, 2018, through December 31, 2021, with annual progress reporting required until WCSU's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) site visit, at which time all WCSU's educator preparation programs will be reviewed.

Follow-up Activity

If granted full approval by the SBE, the dean of the WCSU Education and Educational Psychology Department will be notified immediately so that WCSU may start recruiting for the fall 2018 semester.

Prepared by: Katie Moirs, Ph.D., Program Approval Coordinator
Bureau of Educator Effectiveness

Approved by: Sarah J. Barzee, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer
Talent Office

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Educator Preparation Review Committee Members**

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
1. Hari Koirala	Eastern Connecticut State University	Higher Education	Jan. 3, 2019
2. Tamika La Salle	University of Connecticut	Higher Education	Jan. 3, 2020
3. Catherine O'Callaghan	Western Connecticut State University	Higher Education	Jan. 3, 2020
4. Julie Sochacki	University of Hartford	Higher Education	Jan. 3, 2020
5. Joseph Bonillo	Waterford Public Schools	K-12	Jan. 3, 2019
6. Thomas Danehy	Area Cooperative Educational Services	K-12	Jan. 3, 2020
7. David Erwin	Berlin Public Schools	K-12	Jan. 3, 2019
8. Ana Ortiz	Oxford Public Schools	K-12	Jan. 3, 2020
9. Shuana Tucker	New Britain Public Schools	K-12	Jan. 3, 2020
10. Evette Avila	Connecticut Center for School Change	Community	Jan. 3, 2020
11. A. Bates Lyons	A. Bates Lyons Associates	Community	Jan. 3, 2019