

Series: 2005-2006
Circular Letter: C - 7

TO: Superintendents of Schools and Bilingual Directors
FROM: Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Commissioner of Education
DATE: October 21, 2005
SUBJECT: Certification Requirements for Bilingual Educators

The recent circular letter (C-12) dated June 20, 2005, highlighted the General Assembly's activities concerning education. The passage of the Act Concerning Certification Requirements for Bilingual Educators has amended the requirements for bilingual educators detailed in the original 1999 legislation.

While much of the original statute remains intact and unchanged, the recent amendment addresses parts of the original statute which required bilingual educators to hold dual certification in bilingual education and the content area being taught. While content/level specific bilingual endorsements will continue to be issued, the paths to obtaining this endorsement will no longer require that an individual meet dual certification requirements.

Effective July 1, 2005, through July 1, 2008, the highlights of the statutory changes include:

- dual certification is no longer required; however content specific bilingual endorsements will continue to be issued;
- elementary bilingual education endorsement will be valid for Grades K-8;
- secondary content specific bilingual endorsements will be valid for Grades 7-12; and
- additional testing is required to demonstrate proficiency in English and the native language of instruction.

The attached chart will provide you with additional detail concerning the changes in requirements for bilingual educators. The chart provides a comparison of the requirements under the original statute passed in 1999, and the amended statute effective July 1, 2005, through July 1, 2008. Major changes have been bolded.

Please note that the current statute does not impact the course work requirements for cross endorsement. Individuals holding Connecticut certification in a content area that wish to add an additional endorsement for bilingual education will be required to complete the course work requirements as indicated in the current certification regulations.

Any questions concerning these changes may be e-mailed to Helen Jabs, Education Consultant, Bureau of Educator Preparation, Certification, Support and Assessment, at helen.jabs@po.state.ct.us, or Marie Salazar Glowski, ELL/Bilingual Education Consultant, Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction, at marie.salazar.glowski@po.state.ct.us. Additionally, both consultants will be available at the Connecticut Administrators of Programs for English Language Learners (CAPELL) meeting on Friday, October 14, 2005.

BJS:npj
Attachment
cc: Bilingual Directors

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUREAU OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION, CERTIFICATION, SUPPORT AND ASSESSMENT
BILINGUAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS COMPARISON**

Bilingual Teachers (current statute)	Amended Statute Effective July 1, 2005
<p><i>To be eligible for an Initial Educator Certificate effective July 1, 2003:</i></p> <p>Demonstrate competency in English and the other language of instruction as a condition of certification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competency in English shall be demonstrated by successful passage of the essential skills test approved by the State Board of Education (Praxis I-PPST); and • competency in the other language shall be demonstrated on an examination, if available, of comparable difficulty as specified by the Department of Education (ACTFL OPI). <p>Requires individuals seeking to become bilingual teachers in Connecticut to be certified in bilingual education and in the specific content area to be taught (elementary, middle or secondary academic subject area). This may be accomplished in one of the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) complete an approved planned program for <u>dual</u> certification in elementary education, middle or secondary academic subject, and bilingual education, and be institutionally recommended for both; 2) complete an approved planned program for elementary education and complete the cross endorsement requirements for bilingual education (18 semester hours of credit); and 3) complete an approved program in bilingual education and complete 30 semester hours of credit in elementary education including assessments. <p>In addition, applicants are required to demonstrate proficiency in English (Praxis I) and the native language of instruction (ACTFL-OPI).</p> <p>Each of these options lead to dual certification: content area endorsement (i.e. elementary 013, mathematics 029 etc.) and a bilingual content area endorsement (i.e. bilingual elementary 902, bilingual secondary mathematics 929, etc.)</p> <p>The bilingual elementary certificate will be valid for K-6.</p>	<p><i>To be eligible for an Initial Educator Certificate Effective <u>July 1, 2005, until July 1, 2008:</u></i></p> <p>Demonstrate competency in English and the other language of instruction as a condition of certification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competency in English shall be demonstrated by successful passage of the oral proficiency test in English (ACTFL-OPI) and an essential skills test approved by the State Board of Education (Praxis I-PPST); and • oral and written competency in the native language of instruction shall be demonstrated on an examination, if available, of comparable difficulty as specified by the Department of Education (ACTFL-OPI and WPT). <p>From July 1, 2005, to July 1, 2008, the following eligibility requirements apply to individuals seeking to become <u>bilingual elementary teachers</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be certified in bilingual education and pass the Praxis II for elementary education; <i>OR</i> • must be certified in elementary education and have completed at least 6 semester hours of credit in ESL course work as approved by the State Board of Education. <p>The bilingual endorsement issued will be specific to bilingual elementary education (902) and will be valid for Grades K-8.</p> <p>From July 1, 2005, to July 1, 2008, the following eligibility requirements apply to individuals seeking to become <u>bilingual secondary teachers</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be certified in bilingual education and pass the Praxis II content test for the subject area being taught; <i>OR</i> • must be certified in the subject area being taught and must have completed 6 semester hours of credit in ESL course work as approved by the State Board of Education. <p>The endorsement issued will be valid for a subject-specific bilingual endorsement. The secondary subject-specific bilingual endorsement will be valid for Grades 7-12 (i.e. secondary bilingual mathematics 929, secondary bilingual biology 930 etc.).</p>

Bilingual Teachers (current statute)	Amended Statute Effective July 1, 2005
<p><i>To be eligible for a Provisional Educator Certificate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have at least 10 months of successful full-time service and BEST; or • must have completed at least 30 months of full-time service in an approved non-public school or public school in another state under a valid certificate. 	<p><i>To be eligible for a Provisional Educator Certificate:</i></p> <p><i>No changes</i></p>
<p><i>To be eligible for a Professional Educator Certificate (as of July 1, 2000) Elementary Bilingual Teachers (Endorsement 009):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must complete 30 months of successful service under the provisional educator certificate; and • must have completed 30 semester hours of credit beyond the bachelor's degree including 15 semester hours of credit in bilingual education, and 15 semester hours of credit in elementary reading, language arts and mathematics. <p>Secondary Bilingual Teachers (Endorsement 009)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must complete 30 months of successful service under the provisional educator certificate; and • must have completed 30 semester hours of credit beyond the bachelor's degree including 15 semester hours of credit in bilingual education, and 15 semester hours of credit in the content area of instruction. <p>When the professional educator certificate is issued, the bilingual endorsement PK-12 (009) is changed to content specific bilingual endorsement (i.e. Bilingual Elementary 902, Secondary Bilingual Mathematics 929).</p>	<p><i>To be eligible for a Professional Educator Certificate:</i></p> <p><i>Requirements remain the same as in original statute and apply to those bilingual teachers who hold the 009 or a content-specific bilingual endorsement :</i></p> <p>Elementary Bilingual Teachers (Endorsements 009 or 902)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must complete 30 months of successful service under the provisional educator certificate; and • must have completed 30 semester hours of credit beyond the bachelor's degree including 15 semester hours of credit in bilingual education, and 15 semester hours of credit in elementary reading, language arts and mathematics. <p>Secondary Bilingual Teachers (Endorsements 009 or content-specific secondary bilingual endorsements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must complete 30 months of successful service under the provisional educator certificate; and • must have completed 30 semester hours of credit beyond the bachelor's degree including 15 semester hours of credit in bilingual education, and 15 semester hours of credit in the content area of instruction. <p>When the professional educator certificate is issued, the bilingual endorsement PK-12 (009) is changed to content specific bilingual endorsement (i.e. Bilingual Elementary 902, Secondary Bilingual Mathematics 929). Those who hold only a content-specific bilingual endorsement on the provisional educator certificate keep the same endorsement when advancing to the professional educator certificate.</p>

Bilingual Teachers (current statute)	Amended Statute Effective July 1, 2005
<p><i>For continuation of a Professional Educator Certificate Bilingual Elementary Teachers (after July 1, 1999):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must complete 90 (9 CEUs) hours of continuing education in language arts, reading and mathematics if employed in an elementary setting and serving under bilingual certification and does not hold an elementary endorsement. • must complete CEUs as required for the elementary endorsement if employed in an elementary setting and serving under bilingual certification and holds an elementary endorsement. <p>Bilingual Middle and Secondary Teachers (after July 1, 1999)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must complete 90 (9 CEUs) hours of continuing education in the subject area taught if employed in a middle school or high school setting and serving under bilingual certification and does not hold an endorsement in the subject area taught. • must complete requirements for the middle grades or secondary endorsement area held if employed in a middle school or high school setting and serving under bilingual certification and holds an endorsement in the subject area taught 	<p><i>For continuation of a Professional Educator Certificate:</i></p> <p><i>No changes</i></p>

PLEASE NOTE: The requirements for individuals who hold Connecticut certification and are seeking an additional endorsement for bilingual education include the following:

- Must hold a valid CT teaching certificate endorsed in elementary, middle or secondary academic subject (other than foreign language);
- Complete 18 semester hours of credit in bilingual education in the following areas:
 1. First and Second Language Acquisition;
 2. Linguistic and Academic Assessment;
 3. Cross Cultural Sensitivity;
 4. Strategies for Modifying English Content Area Instruction;
 5. Methods of Teaching ESL; and
 6. Methods of Teaching Bilingual Education.
- Pass the following assessments:
 1. Praxis I-PPST reading and writing;
 2. ACTFL-OPI in English and the native language of instruction; and
 3. ACTFL-WPT in the native language of instruction.