

## Teacher Leader Certification Comments received by CEA

Teacher leaders should be grandfathered for holding certification. Teacher leaders have educational expertise, strong commitment, and a depth of skill experience in educational subject areas/grade levels.

It is important that we keep our teacher leaders. They provide a needed support role to teachers and students alike.

Barbara Palenscar, Windsor Public Schools

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Once again the state has made vague guidelines for the teacher leader certification requirements. I took the twelve credits and yet the 105 certification was denied me because the state claims that one of the courses I took, which was recommended by the university and complied with the state's updates of curriculum development, was not a curricular course. The course was on assessment and certainly pertained directly to curriculum development. I also took a broad-based course in advanced curriculum development.

The bottom line is: The state should have educators designing the certification requirements for teachers, or at the very least be advised by educators.

Jeanne Kaye-Eleck

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Please do not make certification so difficult that you drive educators away from the field of education!! Please consider grandfathering in folks who are currently performing valuable roles in their districts. Teacher Leaders are important, and nothing replaces experience as the most valuable educational tool. I have four certifications, but if this new certification passes I will be forced back into the classroom....and it is just not fair. This is the time in my career where sharing my knowledge with others is most valuable; please do not make changes that affect experienced educators!!! It is not fair, and not best practice.

Susan Biederman, Suffield Public Schools

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I have reviewed the proposed teacher leader certificate and I do not support this certification. As a teacher leader working as a Math Resource Teacher in my district, I am concerned about these changes. The role of a teacher leader is new and is still being defined at various levels. I have

worked in this role for the past four years and each year my responsibilities have been slightly different than the year before. I believe it is premature to put forth such certification changes. Additionally, if this certificate is to be required it is upsetting to know that current teacher leaders would not be grandfathered. Not grandfathering teacher leaders would put the burden on our hard working teachers. This burden would be impact our time and finances as we would be required to gain additional credit hours. In these economic times, this is asking too much.

All of our teachers, and ultimately our students, would feel the negative impact of changes to the certification of our teacher leaders, literacy teachers and special education. This is not in our best interest.

If this is to go through, I ask that you please MAKE THIS AN OPTION, NOT A REQUIREMENT. Thank you.

Chris Liss, Simsbury Public Schools

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I am opposed to the certification change, as proposed. To not have current leaders “grandfathered” is an insult to the job we do, and to those who have done this job for many years. To say that what has been learned over the years is less valuable than course work that would need to be taken now is ludicrous. We all know that people in any job learn skills on the job and keep up with their content area if they are good at what they do. Taking credits for additional certification, unfortunately, does not prove that people will become better leaders.

To have no teacher leaders on a committee to discuss this effort is a slap in the face. It would lead one to believe that someone is trying to “sneak” something by. Whenever anything is done in a sneaky manner there is reason to believe it is not valid. Why has there not been a full out effort to have everyone understand the need for revamping certification, and have discussions regarding same?

This is the first I have heard of a new certification, and NEVER believed I would not be grandfathered. Educators are a beleaguered group and the State’s initiative is doing nothing to help morale and boost up those professionals who have dedicated their lives to helping children.

What is the reason for not putting everything up front on the table and having discussions on these issues?

Why is there such a rush to pass a bill? Something is not right...Thank you.

Geraldine Nuzzo, Stamford High School

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**Addition of Teacher Leader Certificates**

Mandating team leaders hold a separate certificate would decimate the pool. Nobody would want to become team leader, where they already perform for no extra money, and then have to pay additional money to become super-certified.

Andrew Wainacht, Killingly Public Schools

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I have spent an extensive amount of time completing my master's in Education in Technology and am now a K-12 Educational Technology Specialist. I cannot understand how we can be "lumped" into one category of "Teacher Leader". If the state is going to require me to take courses, they should be in my area of leadership with educational technology, 21st Century Skills, ISTE Nets S and T, etc.

Lynn Reedy, Stafford Springs Public Schools

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I am writing this because the proposed changes in certification for teacher leaders concerns me greatly as it would affect the position I currently hold.

I have been teaching in Connecticut for 20 years. For the first 17 years, I taught third grade and during that time I developed a love for mathematics. I got my Master's degree from the University of Connecticut in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in mathematics. I purposely did this before starting a family.

Five years ago, I became the team leader for the district wide Mathematics Curriculum Committee and for the last three years I have held the position of Math Teacher. While the majority of my time is spent with students, I am also responsible for working with teachers in my building on professional development, program and curriculum work, and data collection. I constantly read the latest resources and stay up to date on the current news in math.

If the purposed changes to certification take place, this will impact me in my current situation. I feel my years of experience and reputation as a leader in my district show that I am well qualified and prepared for the position that I currently hold.

Marcia Jacobs, Stafford Public Schools

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I am currently working as a Math teacher at an elementary school in Branford, CT. I am writing to comment about the Teacher Leader proposal.

I believe teachers who are currently in the role of Teacher Leader should be grandfathered when the certification changes take place. There are many experienced and qualified teachers currently in these positions. By changing the certification requirements for those teachers already in these positions you will disrupt the services that they are currently providing students and teachers. Personally speaking, I have already earned a masters degree, and would not be able to afford to take 12 more credits. Thus, my school would lose a veteran teacher in this role. Whenever changes are made to certification those already in the positions should be grandfathered.

Math Teacher, Branford Public Schools

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Not grandfathering teachers who currently hold these positions is absurd. If their evaluation reports show they are competent, there is no reason to force them to jump through the hoops of a new certification process.

Michael Kiefer, Madison Public Schools

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