

Personnel -- Certified

Certification

Every instructional employee shall be certified according to the provisions of applicable state law.

It is the responsibility of the employee to submit proof of appropriate certification to the school system prior to the commencement of employment with the Putnam Public Schools. The school system will maintain a record of the employee's credential as required by law.

It shall be the sole responsibility of the certified employee to see that his/her credentials for certification are completed before the date of expiration and to file the completed certification with the school system.

In the event of a lapse in certification, employee's status shall be immediately changed to "Substitute" (per diem) with no benefits, and his/her salary will be reduced to the current rate of pay for substitutes. If employee fails to obtain appropriate certification within 40 days s/he may be subject to termination of employment. If, within a reasonable period of time following a lapse in certification, employee provides evidence of appropriate certification, the employee's salary and benefits shall be reinstated, retroactive to the effective date of certification.

Note: On or after July 1, 2016, to qualify for a professional educator certificate, an individual with a provisional educator certificate must hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as determined by the State Board of Education, related to the teacher's certification endorsement area.

Upon application, a teacher from another state who has taught in such other state, U.S. possessions or territories for a minimum of two years in the past ten years, is nationally board certified, and satisfies the requirements of the appropriate interstate agreement shall be issued a teaching certification by the State Board of Education as permitted by statute. Such teacher shall be exempt from completing the beginning educator program based on such teaching experience upon a showing of effectiveness as a teacher, as determined by the State Board of Education, which may include, but not be limited to, a demonstrated record of improving student achievement.

Also, upon application, a teacher from an approved Connecticut private school shall be subject to the same provisions as listed above.

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Distinguished Educator Designation

The Board of Education encourages certified staff to aspire and to achieve the designation of “Distinguished Educator.” To achieve this designation, the individual must hold a professional educator certificate, have taught successfully for at least five years, have advanced education in addition to a master’s degree, that can include training in mentorship or coaching teachers, and meets the performance requirements established by the State Board of Education. Teachers, so designated, will be considered eligible to serve as mentors for the District’s teacher education and mentoring program.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-145b Teaching certificate (as amended by P.A. 12-116 An Act Concerning Educational Reform and P.A. 15-108 An Act Concerning Teacher Certification Requirements for Shortage Areas, Interstate Agreements for Teacher Certification Reciprocity, Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention and Cultural Competency Instruction.)

10-146c Interstate agreements to facilitate educator certification (as amended by P.A. 15-108)

10-145d State board regulations for teacher certificates et. al. (as amended by P.A. 12-116, An Act Concerning Educational Reform and P.A. 15-108)

10-145o Teacher education and mentoring program (as amended by P.A. 12-116, An Act Concerning Educational Reform)

20 U.S.C. 1119 – No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

34 C.F.R. 200.55 – Federal Regulations Regarding Highly Qualified Teachers

Policy adopted: June 21, 2016

PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Putnam, Connecticut