



# House of Representatives

**File No. 863**

General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**(Reprint of File No. 106)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6434  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 31, 2011

***AN ACT CONCERNING NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (h) and (i) of section 10-145b of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

4 (h) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under  
5 section 10-145d, in not less than three years or more than eight years  
6 after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to  
7 subsection (e) of this section and upon the statement of the  
8 superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose school  
9 district such certificate holder was employed, or the supervisory agent  
10 of a nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education, in  
11 whose school such certificate holder was employed, that the  
12 provisional educator certificate holder and such superintendent, or  
13 such superintendent's designee, or supervisory agent have mutually  
14 determined or approved an individual program pursuant to  
15 subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement

16 of such superintendent, or such superintendent's designee, or  
17 supervisory agent that such certificate holder has a record of  
18 competency in the discharge of such certificate holder's duties during  
19 such provisional period, the state board upon receipt of a proper  
20 application shall issue such certificate holder a professional educator  
21 certificate. A signed recommendation from the superintendent of  
22 schools, or the superintendent's designee, for the local or regional  
23 board of education or from the supervisory agent of a nonpublic  
24 school approved by the State Board of Education shall be evidence of  
25 competency. Such recommendation shall state that the person who  
26 holds or has held a provisional educator certificate has successfully  
27 completed at least three school years of satisfactory teaching for one or  
28 more local or regional boards of education or such nonpublic schools.  
29 Each applicant for a certificate pursuant to this subsection shall  
30 provide to the Department of Education, in such manner and form as  
31 prescribed by the commissioner, evidence that the applicant has  
32 successfully completed coursework pursuant to subsection (g) of this  
33 section, as appropriate. [Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
34 subsection, on and after July 1, 2012, experience teaching in a  
35 nonpublic school shall not be accepted for purposes of issuing a  
36 professional educator certificate, but may be accepted to renew the  
37 provisional educator certificate.]

38 (2) Upon receipt of a proper application, the State Board of  
39 Education shall issue to a teacher from another state, territory or  
40 possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the  
41 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico who (A) is nationally board certified by  
42 an organization deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of  
43 Education to issue such certifications, and (B) has taught in another  
44 state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of  
45 Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a minimum of  
46 three years in the preceding ten years (i) a provisional educator  
47 certificate with the appropriate endorsement, or (ii) if such teacher has,  
48 prior to July 1, 2016, completed thirty credit hours of undergraduate or  
49 graduate coursework beyond the baccalaureate degree, and on and

50 after July 1, 2016, completed thirty credit hours of graduate  
51 coursework, a professional educator certificate with the appropriate  
52 endorsement, subject to the provisions of subsection (j) of this section  
53 relating to denial of applications for certification.

54 (i) (1) For certified employees of local and regional boards of  
55 education or nonpublic schools, except as provided in this subdivision,  
56 each professional educator certificate shall be valid for five years and  
57 continued every five years thereafter upon the successful completion  
58 of professional development activities which shall consist of not less  
59 than ninety hours of continuing education, as determined by the  
60 employing local or regional board of education or the employing  
61 supervisory agent of a nonpublic school approved by the State Board  
62 of Education in accordance with this section, or documented  
63 completion of a national board certification assessment in the  
64 appropriate endorsement area, during each successive five-year  
65 period. (A) Such continuing education completed by certified  
66 employees with an early childhood nursery through grade three or an  
67 elementary endorsement who hold a position requiring such an  
68 endorsement shall include at least fifteen hours of training in the  
69 teaching of reading and reading readiness and assessment of reading  
70 performance, including methods of teaching language skills necessary  
71 for reading, reading comprehension skills, phonics and the structure of  
72 the English language during each five-year period. (B) Such continuing  
73 education requirement completed by certified employees with  
74 elementary, middle grades or secondary academic endorsements who  
75 hold a position requiring such an endorsement shall include at least  
76 fifteen hours of training in the use of computers in the classroom  
77 during each five-year period unless such employees are able to  
78 demonstrate technology competency, in a manner determined by their  
79 local or regional board of education, based on state-wide standards for  
80 teacher competency in the use of technology for instructional purposes  
81 adopted pursuant to section 4d-85. (C) Such continuing education  
82 completed by (i) the superintendent of schools, and (ii) employees  
83 employed in positions requiring an intermediate administrator or

84 supervisory certificate, or the equivalent thereof, and whose  
85 administrative or supervisory duties equal at least fifty per cent of  
86 their assigned time, shall include at least fifteen hours of training in the  
87 evaluation of teachers pursuant to section 10-151b during each five-  
88 year period. (D) In the case of certified employees with a bilingual  
89 education endorsement who hold positions requiring such an  
90 endorsement (i) in an elementary school and who do not hold an  
91 endorsement in elementary education, such continuing education  
92 taken on or after July 1, 1999, shall only count toward the ninety-hour  
93 requirement if it is in language arts, reading and mathematics, and (ii)  
94 in a middle or secondary school and who do not hold an endorsement  
95 in the subject area they teach, such continuing education taken on or  
96 after July 1, 1999, shall only count toward the ninety-hour requirement  
97 if it is in such subject area or areas. On and after July 1, 2011, such  
98 continuing education shall be as determined by the local or regional  
99 board of education in full consideration of the provisions of this  
100 section and the priorities and needs related to student outcomes as  
101 determined by the State Board of Education. During each five-year  
102 period in which a professional educator certificate is valid, a holder of  
103 such certificate who has not completed the ninety hours of continuing  
104 education required pursuant to this subdivision, and who has not been  
105 employed while holding such certificate by a local or regional board of  
106 education for all or part of the five-year period, shall, upon  
107 application, be reissued such certificate for five years minus any period  
108 of time such holder was employed while holding such certificate by a  
109 local or regional board of education, provided there shall be only one  
110 such reissuance during each five-year period in which such certificate  
111 is valid. A certified employee of a local or regional board of education  
112 who is a member of the General Assembly and who has not completed  
113 the ninety hours of continuing education required pursuant to this  
114 subdivision for continuation of a certificate, upon application, shall be  
115 reissued a professional educator certificate for a period of time equal to  
116 six months for each year the employee served in the General Assembly  
117 during the previous five years. Continuing education hours completed  
118 during the previous five years shall be applied toward such ninety-

119 hour requirement which shall be completed during the reissuance  
120 period in order for such employee to be eligible to have a certificate  
121 continued. The cost of the professional development activities required  
122 under this subsection for certified employees of local or regional  
123 boards of education shall be shared by the state and local or regional  
124 boards of education, except for those activities identified by the State  
125 Board of Education as the responsibility of the certificate holder. Each  
126 local and regional board of education shall make available, annually, at  
127 no cost to its certified employees not fewer than eighteen hours of  
128 professional development activities for continuing education credit.  
129 Such activities may be made available by a board of education directly,  
130 through a regional educational service center or cooperative  
131 arrangement with another board of education or through  
132 arrangements with any continuing education provider approved by  
133 the State Board of Education. Local and regional boards of education  
134 shall grant continuing education credit for professional development  
135 activities which the certified employees of the board of education are  
136 required to attend, professional development activities offered in  
137 accordance with the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of  
138 section 10-220a, or professional development activities which the  
139 board may approve for any individual certified employee. Each board  
140 of education shall determine the specific professional development  
141 activities to be made available with the advice and assistance of the  
142 teachers employed by such board, including representatives of the  
143 exclusive bargaining unit for such teachers pursuant to section 10-  
144 153b, and on and after July 1, 2011, in full consideration of priorities  
145 and needs related to student outcomes as determined by the State  
146 Board of Education. The time and location for the provision of such  
147 activities shall be in accordance with either an agreement between the  
148 board of education and the exclusive bargaining unit pursuant to said  
149 section 10-153b or, in the absence of such agreement or to the extent  
150 such agreement does not provide for the time and location of all such  
151 activities, in accordance with a determination by the board of  
152 education.

153 (2) Each local and regional board of education or supervisory agent  
154 of a nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education shall  
155 attest to the state Department of Education, in such form and at such  
156 time as the commissioner shall prescribe, that professional  
157 development activities for which continuing education credit is  
158 granted by the board: (A) Are planned in response to identified needs,  
159 (B) are provided by qualified instructional personnel, as appropriate,  
160 (C) have the requirements for participation in the activity shared with  
161 participants before the commencement of the activity, (D) are  
162 evaluated in terms of its effectiveness and its contribution to the  
163 attainment of school or district-wide goals, and (E) are documented in  
164 accordance with procedures established by the State Board of  
165 Education. At the end of each five-year period each professional  
166 educator shall attest to the state Department of Education, in such  
167 form and at such time as the commissioner shall prescribe, that the  
168 professional educator has successfully completed ninety hours of  
169 continuing education.

170 (3) In the event that the state Department of Education notifies the  
171 local or regional board of education that the provisions of subdivision  
172 (2) of this subsection have not been met and that specific corrective  
173 action is necessary, the local or regional board of education shall take  
174 such corrective action immediately. The department shall not  
175 invalidate continuing education credit awarded prior to such notice.

176 Sec. 2. Section 10-145a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

178 (a) The State Board of Education may, in accordance with section 10-  
179 19 and such regulations and qualifications as it prescribes, issue  
180 certificates of qualification to teach, to administer, to supervise or to  
181 serve in other positions requiring certification pursuant to regulations  
182 adopted by the State Board of Education in any public school in the  
183 state and may revoke the same. Any such regulations shall provide  
184 that the qualifications to maintain any administrator, supervisor or  
185 special service certificate shall incorporate the continuing education

186 provisions of subsection (i) of section 10-145b, as amended by this act.  
187 The certificates of qualification issued under this section shall be  
188 accepted by boards of education in lieu of any other certificate,  
189 provided additional qualifications may be required by a board of  
190 education, in which case the state certificate shall be accepted for such  
191 subjects as it includes.

192 (b) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to  
193 professional certification shall be encouraged to successfully complete  
194 an intergroup relations component of such a program which shall be  
195 developed with the participation of both sexes, and persons of various  
196 ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. Such intergroup relations  
197 program shall have the following objectives: (1) The imparting of an  
198 appreciation of the contributions to American civilization of the  
199 various ethnic, cultural and economic groups composing American  
200 society and an understanding of the life styles of such groups; (2) the  
201 counteracting of biases, discrimination and prejudices; and (3) the  
202 assurance of respect for human diversity and personal rights. The State  
203 Board of Education, the Board of Governors of Higher Education, the  
204 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the Permanent  
205 Commission on the Status of Women shall establish a joint committee  
206 composed of members of the four agencies, which shall develop and  
207 implement such programs in intergroup relations.

208 (c) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to  
209 professional certification shall be encouraged to complete a (1) health  
210 component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited  
211 to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease  
212 prevention and community and consumer health, and (2) mental  
213 health component of such a program, which includes, but need not be  
214 limited to, youth suicide, child abuse and alcohol and drug abuse.

215 (d) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to  
216 professional certification shall be encouraged to complete a school  
217 violence, bullying and suicide prevention and conflict resolution  
218 component of such a program.

219 (e) On and after July 1, 1998, any candidate in a program of teacher  
220 preparation leading to professional certification shall complete a  
221 computer and other information technology skills component of such  
222 program, as applied to student learning and classroom instruction,  
223 communications and data management.

224 (f) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation  
225 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the  
226 curriculum, instruction in literacy skills and processes that reflects  
227 current research and best practices in the field of literacy training. Such  
228 instruction shall be incorporated into requirements of student major  
229 and concentration.

230 (g) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation  
231 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the  
232 curriculum, instruction in the concepts of second language learning  
233 and second language acquisition and processes that reflects current  
234 research and best practices in the field of second language learning and  
235 second language acquisition. Such instruction shall be incorporated  
236 into requirements of student major and concentration.

237 (h) On and after July 1, 2011, any program of teacher preparation  
238 leading to professional certification may permit teaching experience in  
239 a nonpublic school, approved by the State Board of Education, and  
240 offered through a public or private institution of higher education to  
241 count towards the preparation and eligibility requirements for an  
242 initial educator certificate, provided such teaching experience is  
243 completed as part of a cooperating teacher program, in accordance  
244 with the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-220a, as amended by  
245 this act.

246 [(h)] (i) On and after July 1, 2012, any candidate entering a program  
247 of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall be  
248 required to complete training in competency areas contained in the  
249 professional teaching standards established by the State Board of  
250 Education, including, but not limited to, development and

251 characteristics of learners, evidence-based and standards-based  
252 instruction, evidence-based classroom and behavior management, and  
253 assessment and professional behaviors and responsibilities.

254 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
255 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
256 *1, 2011*):

257 (d) The Department of Education may fund, within available  
258 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational  
259 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut  
260 public school teachers, [and] certified teachers at private special  
261 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education,  
262 certified teachers at nonpublic schools approved by the commissioner  
263 and certified teachers at other facilities designated by the  
264 commissioner, who participate in the supervision, training and  
265 evaluation of student teachers, provided such certified teachers at  
266 nonpublic schools pay for the cost of participation in such cooperating  
267 teacher program and provided further that enrollment in such  
268 program shall first be made available to public school teachers; and (2)  
269 institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut public  
270 school educators and cooperating teachers, including institutes to  
271 provide continuing education for Connecticut public school educators  
272 offered in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council.  
273 Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly to school  
274 districts for the provision of substitute teachers when cooperating  
275 teachers are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for  
276 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating  
277 and student teachers, except that such funds shall not be paid to  
278 nonpublic schools for such professional development activities. The  
279 cooperating teacher program shall operate in accordance with  
280 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance  
281 with chapter 54, except in cases of placement in other countries  
282 pursuant to written cooperative agreements between Connecticut  
283 institutions of higher education and institutions of higher education in  
284 other countries. A Connecticut institution may enter such an

285 agreement only if the State Board of Education and Board of  
 286 Governors of Higher Education have jointly approved the institution's  
 287 teacher preparation program to enter into such agreements. Student  
 288 teachers shall be placed with trained cooperating teachers.  
 289 Cooperating teachers who are Connecticut public school teachers shall  
 290 be selected by local and regional boards of education. Cooperating  
 291 teachers at such private special education facilities, nonpublic schools  
 292 and other designated facilities shall be selected by the authority  
 293 responsible for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education  
 294 is unable to identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such  
 295 positions, the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not  
 296 employed by the board of education to serve in such positions. Such  
 297 regulations shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom  
 298 experience and recognized success as educators. The provisions of  
 299 sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the  
 300 selection, placement and compensation of persons participating in the  
 301 cooperating teacher program pursuant to the provisions of this section  
 302 and to the hours and duties of such persons. The State Board of  
 303 Education shall protect and save harmless, in accordance with the  
 304 provisions of section 10-235, any cooperating teacher while serving in  
 305 such capacity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2011	10-145b(h) and (i)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2011	10-145a
Sec. 3	July 1, 2011	10-220a(d)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill, which allows teachers to use or continue to use private school teaching and student teaching experience to obtain Connecticut certificates and allows certified teachers working at private schools to be cooperating teachers, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" made various changes that did not result in a fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6434 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION.*****SUMMARY:**

Connecticut's three levels of educator certification (initial, provisional, and professional) require, among other things, certain amounts of successful teaching experience. In addition, those holding professional (highest-level) certificates must complete continuing education requirements to maintain certification and candidates for initial certificates must complete a program of student teaching under the supervision of an experienced, certified classroom teacher called a "cooperating teacher."

This bill (1) allows teachers to use or continue to use private school teaching and student teaching experience to obtain Connecticut certificates, (2) requires certified teachers in private schools to meet the same continuing education requirements as public school teachers, and (3) allows certified teachers working at private schools to be cooperating teachers. It:

1. eliminates a provision that, starting July 1, 2012, allows only public school teaching experience to count towards requirements for a professional certificate;
2. allows student teaching at a private school to count towards the requirements for an initial certificate, if the private school is approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) and the student teaching is part of the state's cooperating teacher program;
3. allows certified teachers working at private schools to serve as

cooperating teachers, provided they pay the cost of their participation and private schools receive no state funds for cooperating teacher professional development;

4. gives public school teachers priority for enrollment in the cooperating teacher program; and
5. allows a private school's operating authority to select cooperating teachers from among the certified teachers it employs in the same manner as boards of education select public school cooperating teachers.

\*House Amendment "A" requires certified teachers in private schools to meet the same continuing education requirements as public school teachers and gives public school teachers priority for enrollment in the cooperating teacher program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

## **§ 1 — PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE**

### ***Experience***

A provisional certificate holder must have from three to eight years of successful teaching experience to obtain a professional certificate. Under current law, starting July 1, 2012, only public school teaching experience may be used to qualify for a professional certificate, although provisional certificate holders may use private school teaching experience to renew a provisional certificate. The bill eliminates these provisions and allows private school experience to count for purposes of obtaining professional certificates.

### ***Continuing Education***

The law requires public school teachers holding professional certificates to complete 90 hours of continuing education (CEUs) every five years in order to maintain their certification. The bill imposes the same CEU requirements on private school teachers holding such

certificates.

It requires private school operating authorities to determine whether their certified teachers have completed the CEU requirements and to attest that fact to the SBE, as local and regional school board already do.

## **§ 2 — STUDENT TEACHING IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

The bill allows student teaching in private schools to count towards the preparation and eligibility requirements for initial teaching certificates. To qualify, the student teaching must be (1) at a private school approved by SBE, (2) offered through a teacher preparation program at a higher education institution, and (3) completed through the state's cooperating teacher program.

## **§§ 3 & 4 — COOPERATING TEACHERS AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

The State Department of Education's (SDE) cooperating teacher program uses experienced, certified teachers to supervise, train, and evaluate student teachers. SDE provides funds to school districts to (1) hire substitutes when cooperating teachers are released from regular classroom responsibilities to participate in the program and (2) provide professional development for cooperating teachers.

Under current law, cooperating teachers must be certified teachers working in public schools, private special education facilities approved by the education commissioner, or other facilities the commissioner designates. The bill allows certified teachers working in private schools to participate in the program as long as (1) they pay for their own participation and (2) private schools receive no state funds for cooperating teacher professional development activities. It gives public school teachers first priority for enrolling in the cooperating teacher program.

Under current law, local and regional boards of education designate the cooperating teachers working in public schools and the authorities that operate private special education and other designated facilities

choose the cooperating teachers at those facilities. The bill also allows authorities that operate private schools to designate cooperating teachers for those schools. By law, selections must be based primarily on classroom experience and recognized success as a teacher.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/02/2011)