



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Department of Higher Education

MEMORANDUM

To: Connecticut Public School Superintendents
Deans/Directors, Connecticut Teacher Preparation Programs
Deans/Directors, Teacher Preparation Programs in the Region

From: Valerie F. Lewis
Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Higher Education

Betty J. Sternberg
Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education

Date: November 18, 2003

RE: Non-Connecticut Teacher Preparation Programs' Physical Presence in the State

It has been brought to our attention that some student teaching practices in CT conducted by out-of-state teacher preparation programs may have constituted a "physical presence" of a higher education academic program in the state. This memorandum discusses the appropriateness of student teaching placements in Connecticut school districts and serves as a reminder of the pertinent statutes, regulations and policies that govern these placements.

The issue

Some out-of-state teacher preparation programs have arranged student teaching opportunities in Connecticut schools. In some cases, faculty advisors/supervisors from the out-of-state teacher preparation programs have visited their students and have held student teaching experience discussions in Connecticut. These student teaching practices are not appropriately coordinated, in partnership with Connecticut accredited teacher preparation programs, and are arranged either by students or by the out-of-state institutions with Connecticut schools.

Partnerships with Out-of-State Institutions

As a general rule, when there is a genuine family circumstance, medical need, or other emergencies, the State of Connecticut has permitted students enrolled in out-of-state teacher preparation programs to conduct their student teaching in Connecticut. This is

done providing the student's out-of-state institution has formally requested an accredited Connecticut teacher preparation program to provide on-site supervision and to ensure that:

- (a) the student teaching experience meets the standards set forth by the State of Connecticut teacher certification regulations; and
- (b) the student teaching is supervised by a cooperating teacher trained in the Connecticut Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) program.

Statutes and Regulations Pertinent to the "Physical Presence" Requirement

Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10a-34 (a) defines "program of higher learning" as "any course of instruction for which it is stated or implied that college or university-level credit may be given or may be received by transfer." Section 10a-34 (d) states that "[N]o person, school, board, association or corporation shall operate a program or institution of higher learning unless it has been licensed or accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education..."

The State of Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education Regulations for Licensure and Accreditation of Institutions and Programs of Higher Learning Section 10a-34-1 (c) states that "[T]hese regulations shall apply to any person, school, board, association or corporation that operates or intends to operate an institution or program of higher learning, as defined in Section 10a-34 of the General Statutes." Section 10a-34-2 (p) defines "Resident Instruction" as "direct contact instruction which involves the physical presence of both the learner and the instructor at the same regularly scheduled location. Resident instruction also may involve independent study and clinical activities with characteristics similar to distance education." Section 10a-34-24 (a) further mandates that "[A]ny (out-of-state) institution with a physical presence in the state shall be subject to the requirements of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies." Finally, Section 10a-34-24 (b) requires out-of-state institutions applying to operate in Connecticut "to demonstrate compliance with all applicable procedures and standards in Sections 10a-34-9 through 10a-34-24, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as they apply to the program(s) to be offered in Connecticut. In addition, there shall be qualified on-site administrative staff responsible for the overall administrative operation of all educational activities, to include instruction, counseling, advising, library services and maintenance of academic records."

Conclusion

As of now, there are no out-of-state teacher preparation programs which have been licensed or accredited to operate any programs in Connecticut. Therefore, conducting student teaching in Connecticut by any out-of-state teacher preparation programs is a violation of the Connecticut General Statutes and appropriate state regulations.

Implications

- Connecticut schools must not provide any unauthorized student teaching activities for students enrolled in out-of-state teacher preparation programs.
- In the spirit of maintaining high standards and collaboration with our neighboring states and their accredited teacher preparation programs, students enrolled in an out-of-state program, and who have a genuine family and/or medical need, may be permitted to conduct their student teaching in a Connecticut approved Professional Development School providing that the student's out-of-state institution has formally requested an accredited Connecticut teacher preparation program to provide the on-site supervision and to ensure that the student teaching experience meet the standards set forth by the State of Connecticut teacher certification regulations. In such cases, the school that provides the student teaching placement will be officially notified of the authorization by the Connecticut accredited collaborating teacher preparation program.
- Out-of-state teacher preparation programs can apply for authorization to conduct student teaching in Connecticut schools. Such an application process will be governed by *The State of Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education Regulations for Licensure and Accreditation of Institutions and Programs of Higher Learning*.

Questions about the content of this memorandum may be directed to the Office of Academic Affairs at the Department of Higher Education (61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105. Telephone 860-947-1822).