

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification**

**Policy Concerning Articulation Agreement and Practicum in Pre-kindergarten**  
**February 8, 2010**

**Background:**

Since November 2005, there have been two questions under discussion with community colleges and 4-year institutions, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Department of Higher Education (DHE) regarding the preparation of early childhood educators:

1. Can 18 credits in Early Childhood Education (ECE) professional coursework completed at the associate's degree level be accepted by the bachelor's degree level teacher preparation programs?
2. Can the "student teaching" in pre-kindergarten completed at the associate's degree level be accepted toward the pre-kindergarten practicum requirement as part of the certification preparation program for the integrated ECE Nursery—Grade 3 #113 endorsement?

**Current Regulatory Requirements:**

CSDE Program Approval Regulations currently preclude the acceptance of no more than two courses in professional education completed **prior to admission** to a teacher preparation program. The rationale for this is to ensure that:

- candidates meet admission requirements including a B- cumulative undergraduate grade point average and meet/pass the Praxis I prior to admission;
- candidates meet all other admission requirements established by the bachelor's degree institution including any competencies that are stipulated under NCATE standards for knowledge, skills and dispositions for which the institution must have evidence; and
- institutions ensure the proper course sequence and prerequisites are completed with sufficient evidence of competence demonstrated.

Furthermore, under the certification regulations required for the integrated ECE Nursery—Grade 3 #113 endorsement, candidates must complete, as part of their teacher preparation planned program, the following:

- a practicum in a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten setting which includes children with special needs; and
- a student-teaching placement with a trained cooperating teacher of at least 10 weeks full-time in Grades 1, 2, or 3, regular education only.

## NEW Policy:

This new policy will replace the articulation agreement established in the January 2006 Board of Governors for the Higher Education Report to the General Assembly.

The bachelor's degree level institutions offering planned programs leading to the Nursery – Grade 3 #113 endorsement may accept no more than **18 credits** in early childhood education completed at the associate's level institution/community college toward the certification program.

### Effective, July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2014:

1. The candidate matriculated in a bachelor's degree teacher preparation program leading to certification will be required to complete both a practicum in preschool or kindergarten **AND** student teaching in elementary Grades 1-3. The practicum must be completed in a public school or NAEYC-accredited private preschool or Head Start program which includes students with various developmental needs.
  - a. **Exception:** If the credits associated with the preschool or kindergarten practicum were earned at a **NAEYC accredited** associate level institution/community college, those credits can, at the discretion of the bachelor level institution, be substituted for the credits associated with the preschool or kindergarten practicum based on the conditions listed below under item 2.

### Effective July 1, 2014:

1. The community colleges continuing to prepare ECE teachers at the associate's degree level must hold NAEYC [Accreditation of Associate Degree Programs](#) at the time a candidate graduates from the associate's degree level program in order for that candidate to articulate to the bachelor's degree level teacher preparation institution.
2. On and after July 1, 2014, the bachelor's degree level institutions offering planned programs leading to the Nursery–Grade 3 #113 endorsement can, at the discretion of the bachelor level institution, accept the preschool or kindergarten practicum credits from a NAEYC-accredited associate degree program toward the certification program on the following conditions:
  - The preschool or kindergarten practicum must have been completed in a public school or NAEYC accredited private preschool or Head Start program which includes students with various developmental needs.
  - The bachelor's and associate's degree program must come to an agreement on the competency criteria that are measured through the candidate performance assessments.
  - The bachelor's degree program must ensure that the candidate has met bachelor's degree level competencies and certification requirements including those courses and practicum transferred in from the associate's level institution.