



Commissioner's Back-to-School Meeting

Connecticut State Department of Education | August 15, 2017

www.ct.gov/sde/backtoschool

From the Bureau of Investigations and Professional Practices

Bureau Goals

In July 2016, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) created the Bureau of Investigations and Professional Practices. The Bureau's primary responsibility is to investigate allegations of misconduct involving certified educators. The Bureau:

- works closely with districts, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and law enforcement to ensure that CSDE is receiving the information needed to investigate in a wide variety of cases, including cases involving criminal convictions, DCF findings and/or patterns of problematic behavior warranting revocation of a certificate.
- assists districts in the hiring process by sharing certain misconduct-related background information in CSDE's possession regarding job candidates as required by statute.
- works with district administration and educator preparation programs to develop awareness regarding educator professional responsibilities and ethics.

Reminders on Certain Key Requirements for Districts Regarding Educator Misconduct

Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 17a-101a — Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect by Mandated Reporters

Mandated reporters must provide reports to DCF of suspected reports of abuse, neglect or placement of imminent risk of serious harm in accordance with CGS Sections 17a-101b and 17a-101c.

Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 17a-101i — Employment Actions based on Report of Abuse/Neglect

The Superintendent must suspend any employee (1) recommended for placement on the DCF Registry due to a school employee's abuse or neglect of a child, or (2) whom the DCF Commissioner believes has sexually victimized a student through the commission of specific criminal offenses as described in subsection (a)(2) of CGS Section 17a-101a. The Superintendent is required to notify the Commissioner of Education within 72 hours of such suspension.

In accordance with CGS Section 17a-101i(a), the district is prohibited from employing any person whose contract is terminated or who resigned from employment following a suspension pursuant to Section 17a-101i where such person is convicted of one or more of several criminal offenses, including a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect.

CGS Section 10-221d(a) — Criminal history & child abuse and neglect registry records checks

If a district receives notice of a conviction of a crime by a person holding a certificate, authorization or permit issued by CSDE, or by a student teacher/intern completing preparation requirements to become certified, the district must notify CSDE.

CGS Section 10-151c — Obligation to Disclose Records of Misconduct

Records of the personal misconduct of a certified educator are public records.

Contact Information: If you have any questions, please contact Bureau Chief Nancy Pugliese at 860-713-6466 or nancy.pugliese@ct.gov.