



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education *DRW*
DATE: November 8, 2017
SUBJECT: Changes to the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program

Section 10-145o of the Connecticut General Statutes, effective October 1, 2009, called for the establishment of the TEAM program for beginning teachers. Since that time, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in collaboration with various partners, has invested significant fiscal and human resources into administering the program statewide.

Pursuant to state statute, local and regional boards of education are responsible for implementing the TEAM program in accordance with their three-year district teacher education and mentoring plan. They are also responsible for pairing beginning teachers with a mentor who will support the teacher throughout the TEAM induction process, and are required to provide that mentor with a stipend in accordance with the statute. The Department has historically covered the cost of providing the stipend for mentors, however, the Legislature eliminated all funding associated with the program in the recently passed biennium budget. Despite the elimination of funding, the statutory requirement still remains.

With guidance and coaching from their mentors, beginning teachers are still required to complete five instructional modules. **However, beginning teachers will no longer be required to submit reflection papers.** While the Department has no longer been appropriated the resources to offer financial support for TEAM, it remains our intention to partner with districts to offer support and provide training and technical assistance.

The following outlines changes to the TEAM program for the 2017-18 school year and beyond:

District	CSDE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and their mentors will determine how best to approach each module based on the individual needs of the beginning teacher. Reflection papers will no longer be required. Mentors shall receive a minimum of a five hundred dollar annual stipend for each beginning teacher assigned from the local or regional board of education. Districts will no longer be required to document TEAM participation in the TEAM data dashboard. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> CSDE will provide training, technical assistance, and resources to support district implementation and assist mentors to carry out responsibilities at the district level. CSDE will collaborate with educator preparation programs to train cooperating teachers during student teaching and internships. CSDE will continue to provide access to the BloomBoard professional learning collections aligned to each of the domains of the CT Common Core of Teaching.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Sarah Barzee at 860-713-6848 or via email at sarah.barzee@ct.gov.

SB:cpv-c
cc: Ms. Ellen E. Cohn, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Dr. Sarah J. Barzee, Chief Talent Officer
Ms. Claudine Primack, TEAM Program Manager, CSDE