

Proposed Teacher Leader Certificate

Reasons why CEA opposes proposed certificate	Some questions to consider in writing testimony
Teachers currently working in such positions would not be grandfathered – would <i>have</i> to earn certificate	If this certificate was to be required, and current TLs were not grandfathered, how would that affect the TLs in your district? Would TLs seek the endorsement? Why or why not? How would this impact students and teachers?
Proposed certificate should be optional for teachers to earn, as in other states that have such certificates	
Proposal assumes teacher leaders who serve in a wide variety of roles all need the same knowledge and skills	What roles do teacher leaders play in your school and district? How do these roles differ?
Field of ‘teacher leadership’ very new – need standards, role distinctions, & skills TLs need identified before discussing possible certification	What skills and knowledge do TLs need for different roles?
Districts don’t strongly support proposed certificate – would limit their ability to train teachers for leadership positions as they see fits their needs	How have teachers who are already in TL positions gained the knowledge & skills they need? How has your district supported TLs?
SDE process for designing certificate <i>excluded</i> teachers from discussions(shows no respect for concept of teacher leaders); their push for certificate is based on erroneous information (i.e., that there are national standards for teacher leaders, and that ETS has designed a performance-based assessment for teacher leaders, which could be one path to earning the endorsement. – Not true.)	Why is it necessary for CT to develop clear standards for TLs before discussing a certificate in this area? What role should teachers play in that process? What does the SDE exclusion of teachers from the process of designing a TL certificate say to the teaching profession?

CEA PROPOSES: MAKE THIS AN OPTION, NOT A REQUIREMENT.

- Include teachers, especially those working in TL positions, in gathering info to be used in discussions about where TL work in CT should move
 - Information from current TLs
 - Work being done by other states
 - When completed, model standards designed by ETS/NEA work group

How to Write and Deliver Testimony for the Certification Hearings Proposed Teacher Leader Certificate

- Write about **1 or 2** reasons why the proposed certificate should be changed, tying them together if possible (better to go into more depth about fewer reasons than write shallow comments about all reasons)
- **Personalize** your comments – talk about how this certificate and its requirements would affect how you do your job and the **effect** that would have on students
- Conclude by clearly saying **what you think would be a better** alternative – See CEA position.
- Written testimony should be no longer than **1 to 2 pages**
- Oral testimony is generally limited to **3 minutes** – Summarize main points from your written testimony
- Use the format provided by CEA (headings, how to begin wording)
- **Review the questions** pertaining to the reasons CEA opposes proposed certificate, and how you might ‘answer’ these questions (and others) as part of your testimony

Written testimony should be sent to CEA via email at TeacherLeader@cea.org at least 8 days before the hearing date. Keep a copy of your written testimony. CEA will compile all testimony, make the required copies, and submit it to the SDE for you.