

## Proposed Literacy Specialist Certificate

Reasons why CEA opposes proposed certificate	Questions to consider in writing testimony
Range of proposed responsibilities too wide for one certificate	What should a literacy <u>teacher</u> , as opposed to a literacy <u>specialist</u> , do within his/her role?
30 credit preparation program for initial certificate too broad	As a classroom teacher, how would having a literacy teacher work with students, as described in CEA's ideas, increase your ability to be more effective in the classroom?
SDE rationale for only one certificate is not sound (SDE says districts don't understand difference between current remedial reading <i>teacher</i> and reading <i>consultant</i> , & use them interchangeably, so 2 certificates might as well be combined into one)	What areas of study should be included in a 30-credit graduate level preparation program for a literacy teacher?
Cost of all coursework (up to 51 credits) discourages teachers from seeking endorsement	What areas of study should be included in a preparation program for a literacy specialist?
Certificate uses 'one size fits all' model; discourages differentiated staffing	How would having 2 levels of certification, and 2 levels of preparation, enhance the preparation at each level?
Some areas of literacy not addressed in proposed preparation program	<p>What happens in schools when a literacy educator doesn't have adequate preparation for his/her role? What does that 'look like' in practice? How does it affect students and teachers?</p> <p>What should the SDE do to help assure that districts understand the difference between a literacy teacher &amp; literacy specialist, and don't use educators in these roles interchangeably?</p> <p>How do teachers view a 'one-size-fits-all' model of certification for an area as important as literacy?</p>

### CEA PROPOSES:

- 2 levels of certification – literacy *teacher* & literacy *specialist*
- Involve reading teachers and consultants who currently teach at different levels, & in different environments, in decisions about responsibilities covered by each level of certificate

# How to Write and Deliver Testimony for the Certification Hearings Proposed Literacy Specialist 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 – use plain English, not education jargon
- 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 [LiteracySpecialist@cea.org](mailto:LiteracySpecialist@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

