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Commission on Teacher Credentialing Adopts New *Accreditation Framework*

SACRAMENTO – Teacher quality is one of the most important contributing factors to student success. To serve students well, California needs an adequate supply of fully prepared teachers and needs to ensure that their preparation is effective.

While the institutions of higher education and local education agencies continue to produce teachers for the public schools of California, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing works to ensure that the programs that are preparing these educators are quality programs. This is accomplished through the accreditation process.

According to the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning’s recent report, “In the 2000–01 school year, the state had 42,427 underprepared teachers (about 14 percent of the workforce) who lacked a preliminary or clear credential. Last school year, that number had declined to 15,549 (about 5 percent of the workforce).”

At its December meeting, the Commission adopted a new *Accreditation Framework* which sets forth the policies regarding the accreditation of educator preparation in California. The new Framework includes a greater emphasis on the collection of data but continues to include site visits by teams of experts. Only an accredited educator preparation program may recommend a candidate for a license to teach in California.

The accreditation process covers not only teacher preparation programs, but also programs for school professionals such as administrators and counselors.

The purpose of the professional accreditation system is to provide assurances to the public, the students and the education profession that educator preparation programs:

- 1) are responsive to the educational needs of current and future students;
- 2) maintain a level of quality that ensures effective educators for the California public schools;
- 3) meet program standards that measure whether each of the educator candidates has the knowledge, skills and abilities to be effective educators; and,
- 4) are in a state of continuous improvement.

It is the Commission’s mission to ensure integrity and high quality in the preparation, conduct and professional growth of the educators who serve California’s public schools. The *Accreditation Framework* supports that mission by ensuring high quality preparation programs that provide California’s public school system with educators that have the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to be effective for the students of our state.

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