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Information

Professional Services Committee

Update on the Activities of the Bilingual Certification Design Team

Executive Summary: This agenda item reviews the elements and timelines for development of routes for bilingual certification as proposed by the Bilingual Certification Design Team.

Recommended Action: For information only.

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Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators.
- ◆ Implement, monitor and report on the outcomes of new program initiatives.

June 2007

Update on the Activities of the Bilingual Certification Design Team

Introduction

At the April 2007 Commission meeting, staff presented an update on the work of the Bilingual Certification Design Team. This agenda item provides a further update on that work with respect to two major areas: first, the development of a program route for bilingual certification, and second, the progress on revalidating and redeveloping the examination route for bilingual certification.

Background

The Bilingual Certification Design Team has made steady progress towards completing its charge to update and redesign as needed the routes to bilingual certification. At the present time, parallel work is taking place on both the program and the examination routes to certification. As this work has unfolded, a parallel timeline has also become a necessity to ensure that both routes are comparable in scope and rigor. Discussions are also being held with legislators to provide statutory authority for a program route to bilingual certification.

Current Work in Progress

Development of the Set of Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs) Required for Bilingual Certification. Work has now been completed on the development of an updated set of knowledge, skills and abilities required for bilingual certification. This set of KSAs will serve as the basis for both examination revision and revalidation, and for the development of new program standards for the proposed new program route to certification. The KSAs are currently undergoing a content validity study to ensure that they accurately and appropriately represent the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to do the job of a bilingual teacher in California public schools. It is expected that the content validity study will be completed in time to present the draft KSAs to the Commission as an information item in August 2007 and as an action item in October 2007.

Development of Bilingual Program Standards

Using the draft KSA statements as a starting point, the Bilingual Certification Design Team is continuing to work on developing new Program Standards that will ultimately guide the development of a program route to bilingual certification via approved bilingual teacher preparation programs. This work will continue in July and September 2007, and will incorporate the findings of the KSA validity study. The field review of the draft program standards will take place in October and November 2007. It is expected that the program standards will be presented to the Commission as an information item in October 2007 and as an action item in December 2007.

Redevelopment of the Bilingual Certification Examinations

The Commission's contractor for the CTEL/BCLAD examinations, NCS Pearson, has been working with a panel of bilingual experts, including several members of the Bilingual Certification Design Team, to revalidate and update as necessary the set of examinations used for bilingual certification. There are currently three BCLAD subtests: Language (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing), Bilingual Methodology, and the Culture of Emphasis. As part of an examinations consolidation effort, these three current BCLAD examinations are becoming part of the CSET series of examinations, and the final administration of the current BCLAD examination will be in June 2007.

The former BCLAD examination in Language will be replaced by the current CSET: Languages Other than English subtest III (subtest II for several of the less commonly taught languages as the less commonly taught languages only have two CSET subtests). The former BCLAD subtest in Bilingual Methodology will become a new, revalidated CSET: LOTE Subtest IV; the former BCLAD subtest in the Culture of Emphasis will become a new, revalidated CSET: LOTE Subtest V.

The CSET Subtests IV and V content expert panels have been working from the set of KSAs originally developed by the Bilingual Certification Design Team. The KSAs are now out for field review for content validation purposes. The examination questions from the current BCLAD item bank have been reviewed by both the Bias Review Committee and the content expert panel for their alignment with the new KSAs. In addition, drafts of new test items for both subtests have been developed and are now going through the item review process.

The first administration of the new CSET: LOTE Subtests IV (Bilingual Methodology) and V (Culture of Emphasis) will be on Saturday, November 3. Scoring will be completed by late November 2007, and standard setting will take place in early December 2007. The proposed passing score standard for the CSET: LOTE Subtests IV and V will be presented to the Commission for adoption at the February 2008 meeting.

Timeline for the Completion and Implementation of the Bilingual Certification Examinations and the Bilingual Teacher Preparation Program Standards

	KSAs	Exams Development	Program Standards
June 2007			BCDT reviews current draft of Program Standards
July 2007			BCDT meets July 5-6 and discusses current draft version of Program Standards
August 2007	Content Validity Study begins; Draft KSAs presented to Commission for information	Item review meeting to review new draft test items based on the KSAs; Test Guide for candidates drafted for review	BCDT reviews revisions and next draft of Program Standards

	KSAs	Exams Development	Program Standards
September 2007	Content Validity Study completed	Finalized candidate Test Guides for CSET:LOTE Subtests IV and V posted to examinations website; Invitations to the December passing score standard setting meeting sent to panel members	BCDT meets September 13-14 to review final draft of Program Standards
October 2007	Final KSAs presented to Commission for adoption		Program standards presented to the Commission for information; Field review of draft of Program Standards begins
November 2007		First administration of new CSET:LOTE Subtests IV and V; Scoring conducted for CSET:LOTE Subtests IV and V	Field review of draft Program Standards continues; Final version of draft Program Standards developed
December 2007		Passing score standard setting meeting conducted for CSET:LOTE Subtests IV and V	Program Standards presented to the Commission for approval
February 2008		Recommended passing score standard for CSET:LOTE Subtests IV and V presented to the Commission for approval	Program Standards distributed to the field, along with submission guidelines; Technical assistance begins, to help program sponsors in the development of programs and in responding to the new program standards