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Action

Professional Services Committee

Proposed Approval to Release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Revision of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) Examination and Plan to Revise Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7

Executive Summary: At the November 2007 Commission meeting, revised content specifications for the RICA examination were adopted. These revised specifications affect not only the RICA examination but also the content of Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7. Staff is requesting approval to develop and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure a contractor to revise the RICA examination in alignment with the revised content specifications, and is also proposing a plan for revision of Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7 to reflect the revised RICA content specifications.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the development and release of an RFP for revision of the RICA examination.

Presenter: Terry Janicki, Consultant, Professional Services Division; and Yvonne Novelli, Assistant Consultant, Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation and performance of professional educators and for the accreditation of credential programs.
- ◆ Conduct, monitor, and evaluate the programs and systems the Commission operates to maintain quality and assure the systems align with each other and other state systems.

December 2007

Proposed Approval to Release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Revision of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) Examination and Plan to Revise Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7

Introduction

At the November 2007 meeting, the Commission approved the revised Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) content specifications. The revised specifications impact both the content of the RICA examination and *Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7: Preparation to Teach Reading-Language Arts*. This agenda item presents a request for approval to develop and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure an examinations contractor who can assist the Commission in revising the RICA examination in alignment with the revised RICA content specifications. Further, this item presents a plan to update Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7 to reflect the revised content related to the effective teaching of reading.

A. Approval to Develop and Release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Revision of the RICA Examination

The RICA examination measures the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by beginning teachers relative to effective reading instruction. Passing the examination is required of California-trained candidates for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and/or Education Specialist Instruction Credential. The current RICA examination is based on content specifications that were aligned to a version of the *K-12 Reading-Language Arts Framework* that will be phased out in the public schools by fall 2010. The RICA examination will need to be revised to reflect the most current framework, on which the revised content specifications adopted by the Commission in November 2007 were based. Commission staff is requesting approval to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure a contractor to perform test development work needed to revise the RICA examination in alignment with the revised content specifications adopted by the Commission.

The RFP will ask for bids from contractors with significant experience and competence in large-scale educational test development and for their key personnel to have recent experience in a comparable capacity with a similar type of examination program. Bidders will also be asked to respond to all aspects of the RICA test development work described in the RFP and encouraged to propose enhancements, improvements, or innovations to any or all parts of the scope of work. The winning bidder's cost will be the only compensation received to cover expenses for performing this work. The contract term would be from approximately July 2008 through February 2010, which will correspond to the time frame for completing standard setting studies for the initial administration of the revised RICA Written Examination at the beginning of the 2009-10 testing year and the initial submission of the revised RICA Video Performance in late fall/early winter 2009. The contract will not include any test administration work.

In the RFP, bidders will be asked to describe how they will accomplish the following required work with high quality and in a timely manner for both the RICA Written Examination and the RICA Video Performance Assessment:

1. Facilitate a meeting of the content experts (RICA Design Team) to determine the specific test format of the revised RICA, select the scoring structure, and establish the types and number of test items.
2. Identify those areas of the current RICA item bank that need new test items, determine which items continue to be valid, and develop any needed test items.
3. Facilitate the Commission's Bias Review Committee meeting to review the newly created test items so potential bias or offensiveness may be eliminated.
4. Facilitate the RICA Design Team meeting to review the appropriateness of these test items and provide feedback from the Bias Review Committee.
5. Conduct a field test of the new examination with individuals who have a similar background in reading instruction and demographics to the actual RICA examination candidates and share the results with the RICA Design Team.
6. Conduct a standard setting study that results in a recommendation to the Commission of a new passing score standard for the revised RICA examination.

The contractor will also suggest wording for (1) examinee instructions, (2) proctor and scorer instructions, (3) study guides that include a bibliography compiled from RICA Design Team recommendations, and (4) RICA registration bulletins and website revisions. The contractor will also prepare a comprehensive report detailing the methodology and results of the test development.

All of the resulting examination materials, including examination test items, scoring scales, performance characteristics, and procedures that are developed under the terms of the contract, as well as all data collected, will be owned by the Commission.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the development and release of an RFP for the RICA examination that will reflect the revised content specifications adopted by the Commission in November 2007.

B. Plan for Revision of Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7A and 7B: Preparation to Teach Reading-Language Arts

The current Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7 was aligned with the 1997 *K-12 English–Language Arts Content Standards* and the draft 1999 *K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework*. These references have now been superseded by the new *K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework (2007)*.

At the September 26, 2007 meeting of the RICA Design Team, the group was asked to review Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7 to determine the alignment of this standard with the revised RICA content specifications. The RICA Design Team was augmented for purposes of this conversation by additional experts in secondary reading issues. Commissioner Leslie Peterson Schwarze, the Commission liaison to the Design Team, and Commissioner Guillermo Gomez also attended this meeting.

The expanded group suggested that given the substantial revision to the *K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework* and the need to align Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7 to the new RICA content specifications adopted by the Commission in November 2007, there would need to be significant revisions made to the standard. Below is the proposed plan for revising Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7 and a timeline for the revision process.

Timeline to Revise Standard 7A and 7B: Preparation to Teach Reading-Language Arts

Date	Task
December 5-6, 2007	Plan for Standard 7 Revision presented to Commission
January 2008	Two-day meeting with a small group of experts (including members from RICA Design Team) to develop drafts of revised Standard 7A and 7B
March 5, 2008	Draft of revised Standard 7A and 7B presented to Commission
March-May 2008	Implement a statewide content validation survey of the draft of revised Standard 7A and 7B
June 5, 2008	Revised Standard 7A and 7B and a plan for program implementation of the revised standard submitted to Commission for adoption

It is anticipated that programs will need one year to revise their reading instruction curriculum and to provide the revised curriculum to credential candidates before these candidates will be prepared to take the revised RICA examination based on the revised content specifications. Therefore, the intended timeframe for implementation of the revised reading instruction curriculum will be during the 2008-09 school year, and the intended timeframe for the first administration of the revised RICA examination would be the fall of 2009.

**Relationship Between Reading/Language Arts Framework for
California Public Schools and Program Standard 7A and 7B**

	Reading/Language Arts Framework for California Public Schools: Content Standards and Instructional Practices		
	Kindergarten Through Grade Three	Grades Four Through Eight	Grades Nine Through Twelve
STANDARD 7-A: Multiple Subject Reading, Writing, and Related Language Instruction in English	X	X	
STANDARD 7-B: Single Subject Reading, Writing and Related Language Instruction in English		X	X