

# Report of Program Accreditation Recommendations

January 2011

## Overview

This report consists of recommendations made about the initial accreditation of professional preparation programs based upon institutional responses to program standards. The report also provides information on programs that have transitioned to revised program standards, programs that have elected to change to “Inactive” status or are requesting “Reactivation.” In addition the item presents requests from institutions for programs to be “Withdrawn.” The COA will review these requests and take action to formally withdraw the programs.

## Staff Recommendation

That the Committee on Accreditation grant initial accreditation (A) to the following preparation program(s), as recommended by the appropriate reviewers and take action to withdraw the following preparation programs as requested by the institution (E).

### **A. Programs for Approval by the Committee on Accreditation**

#### Program(s) of Professional Preparation for the Clear Education Specialist Credential

##### ***San Mateo-Foster City School District***

The San Mateo-Foster City School District is proud to present its Special Education Induction Plan. We have added rigor to the Special Education Plans that support inquiry based learning through research and case study for all Education Specialists. Collaboration is a major part of the work as the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is a continued work from the teacher’s undergraduate studies. Therefore the university, Ed Specialist, BTSA Induction Director and Support Providers all take a major role in planning the professional development for the Ed Specialist. BTSA Induction-San Mateo-Foster City (BI-SMFC) plans to serve Preliminary Education Specialists with Mild to Moderate, Moderate to Severe Preliminary Credentials.

##### ***Riverside County Office of Education***

The Riverside County Office of Education is the LEA for the RIMS-BTSA Consortium Professional Teacher Induction Program. RIMS-BTSA is part of the BTSA Cluster 6 region of Riverside, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino counties. RIMS-BTSA has provided mentor support to teachers since 1993, and a CTC-approved induction program since 2002. To date, 4,718 completers, employed at more than 100 school districts, charter schools, county schools, and non-public schools within the region have received their clear multiple and/or single subject credential recommendation from RIMS-BTSA.

The education specialist program will offer qualified candidates concurrent enrollment in general education and special education induction as a route to their clear credentials through one provider. Both programs are closely aligned to inform teacher practice through the formative assessment and mentor support process in order to promote teacher effectiveness and ensure student success across contexts and content. Each education specialist will establish a professional growth goal within their individual induction plan that provides for

professional development or advanced study to extend knowledge about their area of specialization, their practice, and student learning needs.

### ***San Juan Unified School District***

The San Juan Unified School District Education Specialist Clear Credential Program is sponsored by San Juan USD in partnership with San Juan Teachers Association. The program will operate in conjunction with the San Juan USD BTSA Induction Program, serving Education Specialists who hold Preliminary or Level 1 Mild/Moderate and Moderate/Severe credentials. Participating teachers will be supported by either full-time release teachers or classroom teachers with appropriate Education Specialist authorizations. Using the CSTP and Education Specialist program standards, the collaboration between veteran teachers (support providers) and participating teachers will focus on improving classroom practice and on developing reflective teachers who are responsive to the diverse cultural, social and linguistic backgrounds of all students. Support providers will observe and coach beginning teachers, offering short and long term planning help and classroom management consultation. Support providers will also teach demonstration lessons, provide curriculum resources, facilitate communication with site administrators, provide information about professional development opportunities, and lead participating teachers through the rigorous New Teacher Center's Formative Assessment System. Throughout the two-year process, support providers will monitor completion of requirements and verify participating teachers' progress towards completion with program leadership. When beginning teachers complete the clear credential requirements, they will attend an Exit Interview with San Juan USD BTSA Governance Panel members and successful candidates will be recommended for their clear credentials.

### ***Capistrano Unified School District***

The Capistrano Unified School District Induction Program for the Clear Education Specialist Credential is comprised of three components: individualized professional development, documentation and self-assessment of practice, and a multi-layered system of support. Each candidate pursues professional development options based on their professional needs and the demands of the teaching context. Using Formative Assessment for California Teachers (FACT), candidates continually document, reflect upon, and self-assess their practice in order to advance their skills and improve student achievement. Throughout the program, candidates collaborate with qualified special education support providers, district specialists, site colleagues, and other professionals to address the needs of their students while advancing their own skills and knowledge in special education. In addition, each candidate works closely with the CUSD Teacher Development Program staff to insure that all Induction standards for the Clear Education Specialist credential are met within the two year program.

### ***Marin County Office of Education***

The Marin BTSA Induction Program is a consortium of nineteen districts in Marin County. The program supports new special education teachers in our public, charter, and private schools in clearing their Level I and Preliminary Education Specialist credentials and improving their teaching skills. We work collaboratively with our district special education

support providers and directors to provide a relevant and rich induction experience based on the CSTPs and the Induction Standards.

### ***Stanislaus County Office of Education***

Stanislaus County Office of Education's Clear Education Specialist Induction program for Education Specialist candidates is characterized by a depth of experience that challenges the Education Specialist fostering critical reflection, extending understanding and allowing for meaningful integration of theory and practice. The program will serve candidates who hold the level 1 Education Specialist or the Preliminary Education Specialist credential and are employed in Stanislaus COE consortium districts. Clear Induction candidates will be mentored by experienced Education Specialist Support Providers who guide and support the candidates' development through an extended menu of options as candidates participate in the Plan, Teach, Reflect and Apply cycle. SCOE's SPED Induction program is a two year experience (with an ECO option as well) used to support and inform candidates about their professional growth as candidates complete a locally designed formative assessment system.

### ***San Ramon Valley Unified School District***

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District Special Education Credential Program is a partnership between the established BTSA program and the Special Education Program. Relying on the BTSA program's expertise in developing good teacher practice while clearing a candidate's preliminary multiple or single subject credential, and in partnership with the expertise of SRVUSD's Special Education Department, SRVUSD proposed a two year induction program to clear Level 1 and Preliminary Education Specialist credentials, which was approved in December, 2010. SRVUSD agrees to monitor the program admission process and assure that only candidates that meet the criteria established by the BTSA Task Force shall be served by the BTSA/Education Specialist Induction Program. Each candidate shall be assigned a mentor within 30 days of the start of employment, with particular attention to the candidate's authorization(s). Candidates will participate in the Induction program in their assignment, and their experiences will be authentic and connected to Individual Induction Plan goals and Inquiry Action Plans, supported by the New Teacher Center Formative Assessment System.

### ***San Diego County Office of Education***

The San Diego South County Teacher Induction Program will serve both level 1 and preliminary education specialist candidates working to clear their credentials with mild/moderate and moderate/severe authorizations. Each candidate will work closely with a trained support provider who holds the same credential. Support providers will work with the candidates through the FACT formative assessment program in a differentiated manner, provide additional professional development activities also differentiated to meet the individual candidate's needs, and the proper completion of specific program documents verifying full program participation based upon the written program narrative. Further, each candidate will have access to an individualized official program transcript throughout the two-year program to verify their progress as they work to clear their level 1 or clear education specialist teaching credential.

### ***Alliant University***

The Clear Education Specialist Program at Alliant International University is designed to provide Clear candidates the knowledge, practices and competencies necessary for earning a Credential in Mild/ Moderate Disabilities. Alliant Education Specialist Credential Programs are designed to reflect the standards established by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) and to integrate the mission, framework, and standards of the Hufstедler School of Education. Our two-semester program is built in a cohort model, which groups practitioners in cohorts of 15-20 practitioners who enter and matriculate through the Program as a cohort. The Clear Program is comprised of four courses coupled with a district supported seminar series and support provider program, totaling twelve semester units.

Programs of Professional Preparation for the Education Specialist Mild/Moderate Disabilities Program

***Whittier College***

The Mild/Moderate Credential program at Whittier College is designed to prepare teacher-leaders for today’s public elementary, middle, and high schools. The course sequence of the program is 39-40 units depending on whether students pursue the Student Teaching or Intern pathways. Further, candidates are able to obtain an Education Specialist credential in conjunction with either a Multiple or Single Subject credential in 42-49 units depending on the pathway they select. The Mild/Moderate credential program provides candidates with experiences to link theory with practice in core coursework through varied field experiences, our candidates also co-enroll in certain classes with Multiple and Single Subject candidates in order to gain a deeper, more diverse perspective of education. The Mild/Moderate credential program facilitates the development of teachers who are dedicated to and passionate about special education, demonstrate professionalism and ethical behavior, respect and understand the diversity in today’s schools and use this knowledge to create an educational environment which is conducive to student success.

Program(s) of Professional Preparation for the Education Specialist Added Authorization

***Orange Unified School District – Autism Spectrum Disorder***

The Orange Unified School District’s Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Department under the leadership of the Education Services Division, provides the Autism Spectrum Disorder Added Authorization Program for Education Specialist Teachers who did not obtain this authorization as part of their credential program. This program, containing two (2) on-line courses and one practicum, has been written by District staff and is delivered in a twelve week on-line format. The two on-line courses require Candidates to participate in weekly readings, blog entries and completion of course assignments. At the conclusion of each on-line course, a Colloquium event provides candidates with the opportunity to share evidence of changes they have made in their instructional practices. Every Candidate participating in the practicum is assigned a Consulting Teacher who will provide formative support and assistance as they prepare their Practicum Project. Practicum Projects are presented to an exit panel as part of the approval process for this added authorization

**B. Notification about the Transition of Professional Preparation Program(s)**

*The items listed below are for notification purposes only. No action is needed.*

At each meeting, this section of the Program Approval item will update the COA as to what programs have transitioned to recently updated standards.

*None.*

**C. Program(s) of Professional Preparation Moving to Inactive Status**

*The items listed below are for notification purposes only. No action is needed. To re-activate the program, the institution must make a formal request to the COA which must take action. The inactive program will be included in the accreditation activities in a modified manner as determined by the COA (Accreditation Handbook, Chapter 3.)*

***Claremont Graduate University***

Professional Administrative Services Credential, effective December 31, 2010.

**D. Professional Preparation Programs(s) Requesting Reactivation**

*None*

**E. Recommendation about the Withdrawal of Professional Preparation Program**

Withdrawal of the following program has been requested by the institution. The date of withdrawal will be the date of the COA's action.

*When an institution withdraws an educator preparation program the institution must wait a minimum of two years before the institution may request re-accreditation of the program (Accreditation Handbook, Chapter 3.)*

***Alameda County Office of Education – Adult Education Credential Program (effective February 1, 2011)***

***Bethany University – Multiple and Single Subject Clear Credential***

***University of California, Riverside – Administrative Services Credential – Tier 1***

***Newport-Mesa Unified School District BTSA Program***