

Agenda: ECE Stakeholders Work Group re: Appropriate Preparation and Licensing for ECE Teachers

November 7, 2013

Topic	Time
Introductions and Purpose of Meeting	10:00
California ECE Teacher Preparation—Now and in the Future	10:30
Lunch	12:00
Information Needed for Commission Agenda Item	1:00
Small Group Work	2:00
Wrap-up, Next Steps	3:30

Rationale for an Emphasis in Early Childhood Education (From 6/13 [TAP Agenda Item](#) p. 18)

As the research base, pedagogical knowledge, and developmental understandings are specialized for early childhood (National Association for the Education of Young Children), a P-3 emphasis, credential, or authorization is recommended. This emphasis would be added to the holder's multiple subject or education specialist credential. Nearly every other state provides a specific authorization for teaching at the early childhood/early elementary level (preK-2, 3 or 4). This emphasis would include intensive focus on the knowledge and skills needed to educate children in pre-school and transitional kindergarten settings, with special attention to developing young learners' literacy and language skills. This emphasis would also equip P-3 educators with knowledge and skills needed to be effective in California's context – high proportions of English learners, students from diverse cultural and racial contexts, and high proportions of students in poverty. Additionally, this emphasis would include knowledge and skills for teaching young children with special needs. It should be further noted that this may be a logical first step towards the creation of a state credential for P-3 educators. Implementation of this emphasis program may provide the Commission with a preliminary set of data from which to evaluate the appropriateness or need for a P-3 credential, particularly in light of more rigorous pre-school program requirements, anticipated by federal and state agencies.

Early Childhood Education (From 8/13 [TAP Agenda Item](#) p. 10)

The TAP panel made a recommendation concerning establishing an Emphasis credential in the area of Early Childhood Education. There is considerable interest in the field to look more broadly at potential revisions to the Commission's requirements for early childhood educator preparation and licensing. In light of increasing federal funding for early childhood education and the growing emphasis on the important of high quality early education experiences for young children, staff recommends that the Commission establish a task group that can pull together comprehensive information on national trends in early childhood education and preparation along with information on other states' approaches to licensing and credentialing for early childhood educators, and report back to the Commission at a study session scheduled for December 2013.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission establish a task group to collect and analyze comprehensive information on national trends in early childhood education and preparation as well as on other states' approaches to early childhood licensing and credentialing and report to the Commission on its findings at the ~~December 2013~~ **February 2014** meeting.