California Teachers who were prepared in Other Countries

In 2012-13, about 250 initial teaching credentials were issued to teachers who were prepared in other countries. Another 350 teaching credentials were renewed during the same fiscal year (FY). Ten years ago, the proportion of initial issuance to renewals was 58 percent and 42 percent, respectively. However, in the FY 2012-13, the proportion was exactly reversed – initial issuance was 42 percent whereas the proportion of renewals was 58 percent. The decline in the initial issuance could be due to the fact that teachers who were prepared in other countries were unable to find teaching jobs in California. At the same time, the increase in the renewals might suggest that the interest to become a teacher in California is still evident.

An analysis of total number of new credentials issued by credentials type indicated that there was a decline of 64 percent in the total number of new teaching credentials issued in the past ten years. The decline ranged from 57 percent for multiple subjects teaching credentials to 77 percent for education specialist teaching credentials. There was a decline between 2003-04 and 2005-06, followed by an increase during FYs 2006-07 and 2007-08. Then there was a steady decline in the FYs 2008-09 to 2012-13. Though the number of credentials was down between 2003-04 and 2005-06, the decline between 2007-08 and 2012-13 was more dramatic.

When data was analyzed by credential types, in FY 2003-04 single subjects consisted of 60 percent; multiple subjects 27 percent and education specialist 12 percent. In FY 2008-09, single subject was 55 percent, multiple subjects 26 percent and education specialist 19 percent. In FY 2012-13, single subject was 60 percent, multiple subjects almost one-third (32 percent) and the remaining 8 percent in education specialist credentials. Regardless of the fluctuating pattern among the credentials types – multiple subjects 27 percent in 2003-04 and 32 percent in 2012-13; while education specialist was 12 percent in 2003-04 and down to 8 percent in 2012-13, the proportion of single subject was always more than half to nearly two-thirds of all credentials issued to teachers prepared in other countries in the past ten years. It is interesting to note that most of the teachers who were prepared in other countries came to California to teach in single subject areas.