
7C

Information/Action

Professional Services Committee

Update on the Validation Study of the Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA)

Executive Summary: This item requests the Commission to select a Commission-liaison to the RICA Validity Study Design Team and updates the Commission on the progress in selecting members for this team.

Recommended Action: To determine a Commission-liaison to the RICA Validity Study Design Team.

Presenter: Amy Jackson, Administrator,
Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal(s):

Goal 1: Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators
- Sustain high quality standards for the performance of credential candidates

Update on the Validation Study of the Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA)

Introduction

This item requests the Commission to select a Commission-liaison to the RICA Validity Study Design Team and updates the Commission on the progress in selecting members for this team.

Background

The current RICA content specifications were developed for the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) are aligned with the 1997 K-12 English–Language Arts Content Standards and 1999 K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework. Because examination validity evidence erodes with time, the Commission is establishing a RICA Validity Study Design Team to re-evaluate the currency of the RICA Test Specifications in light of the 2006 K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework and other pertinent material. Both the areas tested and the test structures will be reviewed.

Update of the RICA Validity Study Design Team Nomination Process

The initial work required for the RICA Validity Study is the establishment of a ten- to twelve-member RICA Validity Design Team, which traditionally is composed of California educators with experience and expertise in the teaching of reading/language arts. To be consistent with Education Code Section 44283(b)(7), the Design Team should be composed of at least one-third “classroom teachers with recent experience in teaching reading in the early elementary grades.”. On December 1, 2005, the Commissioners reviewed a draft RICA Design Team nomination form and made appropriate edits. A Commission sub-committee, consisting of Commissioners Gomez, Molina, and Young, then reviewed and finalized the form. The nomination form was distributed to the field on January 4 & 5, 2006, with a requested return date of January 31, 2006. The list of agencies and individuals who received the nomination form by e-mail can be found in Attachment A, located at the end of this item.

Commission Discussion Regarding the Liaison to RICA Validity Study Design Team

At the December 1, 2005 Commission meeting, the Commission directed staff to present an agenda item at the January–February 2006 Commission meeting that would initiate a discussion of a Commission liaison to the RICA Validity Study Design Team. Staff is seeking direction on the appointment of a liaison to the Design Team.

Attachment A

Distribution of RICA Validity Study Design Team Nomination Form

The RICA Validity Study Design Team Nomination Form was distributed to the field in the following ways:

- Noted on the first page of the Commission’s website under “What’s New” with a link to the full nomination form
- Noticed on the Commission’s list serve, which has a distribution of over 3,200, with a link to the nomination form on the Commission’s website
- Noticed to the following groups and organizations through their e-mails, with a link to the nomination form on the Commission’s website:
 - Association of California School Administrators
 - BTSA Directors
 - California Association of Bilingual Educators (CABE)
 - California Association of Professors in Special Education (CAPSE)
 - California Association of Resource Specialists and other Special Educators (CARS+)
 - California Association of Teachers of English (CATE)
 - California Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CAL-ED)
 - California Federation of Teachers
 - California Kindergarten Association
 - California League of High Schools
 - California League of Middle Schools
 - California Reading & Literature Project (at UCSC)
 - California Reading Association
 - California Reading Recovery Council (at Saint Mary’s College)
 - California School Library Association
 - California State Parents and Teachers Association
 - California Teachers Association
 - California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
 - California. Council for Exceptional Children
 - Californians Together
 - Commission-approved Institutions of Higher Education with Reading Specialist and Reading Certificate programs, Attn. Reading Program Director
 - Commission-approved Institutions of Higher Education, Attn. Deans of Education
 - County Offices of Education, Attn. Reading Program Coordinator (with a request to distribute the notice to any individuals in their districts who might be interested)
 - County Offices of Education, Attn. Superintendent
 - Foundation For Comprehensive Early Literacy Learning
- A request to Tom Adams, Executive Director of the Curriculum Commission, to distribute this to the Commissioners on the Curriculum Commission