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Information

Professional Services Committee

Update on the Review of the Reading Certificate and Reading Language Arts Specialist Credential Requirements and Program Standards

Executive Summary: This agenda item provides an update on the work of the Reading Certificate and Reading Language Arts Specialist Credential Advisory Panel.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Rebecca Parker, 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

October 2008

Update on the Review of the Reading Certificate and Reading Language Arts Specialist Credential Requirements and Program Standards

Introduction

On April 10, 2008 the Commission discussed the plan for the review and revision of the Reading Certificate and Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential Program Standards. This item describes activities that have taken place to review and propose updates to the program standards.

Background

The current Reading Certificate and Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential Program Standards were developed in August 1999 and were aligned with the previous Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standard 7, the 1997 K-12 English–Language Arts Content Standards, and the draft 1999 K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework. These sources have now been superseded by the recently adopted Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standards 7A (*Preparation to Teach Reading-Language Arts for Multiple Subject Candidates*) and 7B (*Preparation to Teach Reading-Language Arts for Single Subject Candidates*), the newly adopted Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) content specifications, and the new 2007 K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework.

A 15 member Reading Certificate and Reading Language Arts Specialist Advisory Panel (see Appendix A) was appointed by Executive Director, Dale Janssen, following staff’s review of 30 applications. Members were chosen to ensure a broad-based and balanced panel of experts in reading/language arts. In addition to their expertise, consideration was given to the composition of the panel to ensure representation from the various educational sectors, key professional organizations, school districts, regions of the state, and reading certificate and reading/language arts specialist credential holders. In addition, the California Department of Education (CDE), Reading/Language Arts Leadership Office appointed a liaison to the panel.

The Reading Certificate and Reading Specialist Advisory Panel had its first meeting on June 26-27, 2008 at the Commission. Following introductions, Dr. Larry Birch, Director of the Professional Services Division, reviewed the charge to the panel. This charge, as directed by the Commission, is to review and, if necessary, recommend to the Commission updates to the Reading Certificate and Reading and Language Arts Specialist credential requirements and program standards, taking into consideration the following:

1. *Reading Certificate and Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential Program Standards* (1998) and the current credential requirements and authorizations for the Reading Certificate and the Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential.
2. *The K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework* (2007).

3. Revised RICA content specifications (2008).
4. Commission adopted *Multiple and Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program Standards* (2008):
 - a. *Standard 7A (Preparation to Teach Reading-Language Arts for Multiple Subject Candidates), and*
 - b. *Standard 7B (Preparation to Teach Reading-Language Arts for Single Subject Candidates).*
5. Other resources as appropriate such as current credential requirements and standards used by other states or professional organizations for similar credentials.
6. Current research about effective instructional strategies in the teaching of reading.

The first day of the meeting was used to create a shared knowledge base by providing presentations on key documents related to the work of a reading specialist. Dr. Geri Mohler, the CDE liaison, discussed the 2007 K-12 Reading/Language Arts Framework. Dr. Mohler focused on the instructional emphases of the Framework (working with English learners, vocabulary, fluency, etc.) and described the five programs and ancillary resources included in the Framework. During the Framework discussion, panelists began to explore how a reading specialist could facilitate the effective adoption of a new reading/language arts curriculum by functioning as a district leader, modeling best practices, creating professional learning communities, and enhancing colleagues' use of literacy strategies provided in the instructional materials.

Dr. Terry Janicki, Commission Consultant, addressed the panel about the revised Preliminary Preparation Standards 7A and 7B. Yvonne Novelli, Commission Consultant, discussed the revised RICA specifications. Following those presentations, the panel reached preliminary consensus that the current Reading Certificate and Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential Standards needed to be revised and updated.

The first panel meeting concluded with the following agreements:

- Future meeting dates will be September 17-18, 2008, October 1-2, 2008, and November 20-21, 2008. (The September meeting date has been cancelled, however, due to the lack of a State Budget. Adjustments may need to be made to the schedule to account for this unavoidable delay.)
- The Commission staff would do minimal editing for comprehensibility and would distribute meeting notes and draft documents to all panel members.
- Panelists would continue work on the draft domain descriptors by e-mail and would start working on descriptions of the headings.

The following chart is a summary of the anticipated timeline for the Advisory Panel’s work.

**Timeline for the Reading Certificate and
Reading and Language Arts Specialist
Credential Program Standards Review Advisory Panel**

Activity	Timeline
Advisory Panel works to review and propose revisions to the standards	June-October, 2008
Advisory Panel Meetings	June 26-27, 2008
<i>Since the September meeting was cancelled, the timeline may be pushed further into 2009</i>	September 17-18, 2008 cancelled due to the lack of a state budget
	October 1-2, 2008
	November 20-21, 2008
Present proposed revised standards to the Commission for information	December 2008
Field review of proposed standards	December-February 2009
Draft standards return to the Commission for adoption	Spring 2009

Appendix A

Reading Certificate and Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential Standards Advisory Panel

Name	Organizational Affiliation
Barbara Bartholomew	California State University, Bakersfield
Federica B. Breuer	Piedmont Unified School District and Mills College
Bernard “Barney” Bricmont	Live Oak Elementary School District
Susan Brown	Yucaipa-Calimesa Jt. Unified School District
Nancy Brynelson	California State University
Martha Beetley	Davis Joint Unified School District
Sandra Ceja	San Diego County Office of Education
Barbara Gallier	Whittier Union High School District
Mary Hall	Los Angeles Unified School District
Lacy Metcalfe	Carlsbad Unified School District
Mary Kay Moskal	St. Mary’s College
Robert Perry	Los Angeles Unified School District
Gary Ravani	Petaluma Unified School District
John Shefelbine	California State University, Sacramento
Yukko Uchikoshi	University of California
Geri Mohler	California Department of Education