
6A

Information/Action

Legislative Committee

Status of Legislation

Executive Summary: Staff will present the status of those legislative measures of interest to the Commission and address questions regarding any other legislation identified by Commissioners.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Sasha Horwitz, Government Relations & Public Affairs Manager,
Administrative Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal

III. Communication and Engagement

- e) Advise the Governor, Legislature, and other policy makers regarding issues affecting the quality, preparation, certification, and discipline of the education workforce.

Status of Legislation

This agenda item provides an update on Commission sponsored legislation as well as bills that the Commission is monitoring or has taken a position on.

2021-22 Sponsored/Supported Legislation

The Commission has sponsored two legislative proposals and taken a support position on a third for 2021.

[AB 320 \(Medina\) - Teacher Preparation Programs: Regionally Accredited Institutions](#)

Introduced: January 26, 2021

Last Amended: n/a

Status: Passed Assembly Education Committee (7-0); Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee

Position: Sponsor

Summary: This bill would allow the Commission to recognize a degree conferred by an institution of higher education (IHE) in preaccreditation status is valid once the IHE and program of study successfully complete the accreditation process.

[AB 437 \(Kalra\) - Teacher Credentialing: Subject Matter Competence](#)

Introduced: February 4, 2021

Last Amended: n/a

Status: Passed Assembly Education Committee (7-0); Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Sponsor

Summary: This bill would give teaching credential candidates additional flexibility for demonstrating that they meet the statutory subject matter requirement (SMR) for the credential they are seeking. In addition to taking and passing a California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) and completion of a Commission-approved Subject Matter Program, candidates would be permitted to use undergraduate or graduate coursework, completed as part of a major at a regionally accredited institution of higher education, to demonstrate competency aligned with existing SMRs. They would also be permitted to combine CSET test results and completed subject matter coursework to demonstrate subject matter competence.

[AB 312 \(Seyarto\) - Teacher Preparation Programs: Regionally Accredited Institutions](#)

Introduced: January 25, 2021

Last Amended: n/a

Position: Support

Status: Passed Assembly Education Committee (6-0); Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: This bill would create a new option for teacher candidates to demonstrate the basic skills requirement (BSR) by permitting the Commission to accept letter grades of B or higher in credit-bearing higher education coursework in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills in the English language in place of the CBEST. The measure will further permit candidates to meet the BSR through a combination of different options.

2021-22 Legislation of Interest

The Legislature is currently in the first year of the two-year 2021-22 legislative session.

Examinations

[SB 488 \(Rubio\) - Teacher credentialing: reading instruction](#)

Introduced: February 17, 2021

Last Amended: March 4, 2021

Status: Passed the Senate Education Committee (7-0); Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: This bill would make changes to the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) statute. In alignment with the current English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework, the bill would add effective means of teaching literacy and evidence-based means of teaching foundational reading skills to the minimum requirements for a multiple or single subject credential.

Starting September 1, 2022, these requirements would need to be included in the standards of program quality and effectiveness for the preliminary Multiple, Education Specialist and Single Subject English language arts credentials. Additional standards would be required starting September 1, 2024 including satisfactory completion of research-based comprehensive reading instruction; direct, systematic, explicit phonics; and for multiple subject credentials the study of integrated methods of teaching language arts.

Starting July 1, 2025, the RICA test would no longer be required, instead the Commission would be required to approve a Teaching Performance Assessment that assesses all candidates for competence in instruction in literacy, including but not limited to evidence-based methods of teaching foundational reading skills. These must be aligned to the ELA/ELD Framework, Teaching Performance Expectations and program standards of quality and effectiveness.

Preparation Programs

[AB 815 \(Luz Rivas\) - School nurses: Credentialing](#)

Introduced: February 16, 2021

Last Amended: n/a

Status: Passed the Assembly Education Committee (7-0); Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: This bill would clarify that the Commission may approve a program operated by a local education agency program sponsor for a services credential with a specialization in health for a school nurse. Program approval would be consistent with existing school nurse credential standards.

Grant Programs

[AB 498 \(Quirk-Silva\) - Teachers: Computer Science Access Initiative](#)

Introduced: February 9, 2021

Last Amended: n/a

Status: Referred to Assembly Education Committee

Summary: This bill would establish the “Computer Science Access Initiative” grant program to be administered by the California Department of Education in consultation with the Commission for the purpose of increasing the number of teachers authorized to teach computer science. Implementation of the grant program is contingent on an appropriation in the state budget.

[AB 520 \(Gipson\) - Teacher recruitment and retention: California Diversifying the Teacher Workforce Grant Program](#)

Introduced: February 10, 2021

Last Amended: March 25, 2021

Status: Referred to Assembly Education Committee

Summary: This bill would establish the “California Diversifying the Teacher Workforce Grant Program” to be administered by the state Department of Education for the purpose of developing and implementing new, or expanding existing, programs that address a local need to develop a teacher workforce that serves all pupil populations, including Black pupils. Implementation of the grant program is contingent on an appropriation in the state budget.

General

[SB 692 \(Cortese\) - Local control and accountability plans: state priorities: least restrictive environment](#)

Introduced: February 19, 2021

Last Amended: n/a

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee

Summary: This bill would add to the state priorities of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) a least restrictive environment indicator as measured by the percentage of pupils with individualized education programs who are 6 to 21 years of age and served inside a regular classroom 80 percent or more of the day. Additionally, the bill requires the California Department of Education to collaborate with the Commission on a survey related to teaching pupils with learning disabilities.

Additional Notes: The sponsor has indicated their intent to remove the survey requirement.