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Information

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.

2021-22 Adopted Budget Highlights

The adopted 2021-22 state budget agreement includes new testing flexibilities and substantial investments in teacher recruitment and retention programs to be administered by the Commission. These investments seek to reverse California's ongoing teacher shortage. Additionally, the Governor has continued to put a high priority on addressing needs in early learning and education data.

Testing Flexibilities

The following testing flexibilities were extended as part of the 2021-22 TK-12 Education Budget Trailer Bill AB 130 (Chap. 22, Stats. 2021) and became effective as of July 9, 2021:

- Suspends the requirement to complete the **Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)** prior to earning a Preliminary Credential if the candidate is unable to complete it during the 2021-22 school year due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a Clear credential.
- Suspends the requirement to complete the **California Administrator Performance Assessment (CalAPA)** prior to earning a Preliminary credential if they are unable to complete it during the 2021-22 school year due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a Clear credential.
- Suspends the requirement to complete the **Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)** prior to earning a Preliminary credential if the candidate is unable to complete it between March 19, 2020 and December 31, 2021 due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a Clear credential.
 - The Commission has the authority to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022 due to testing center closures or capacity issues related to COVID-19.
- Suspends the requirement to complete the **California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)** prior to enrollment in a teacher preparation program if the candidate is unable to complete it between March 19, 2020 and December 31, 2021 due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a Preliminary credential.
 - The Commission has the authority to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022 due to testing center closures or capacity issues related to COVID-19.
- Suspends the requirement to complete the **California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET)** to teach as an Intern, if the candidate is unable to complete it between March

- 19, 2020 and December 31, 2021 due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a Preliminary credential.
- The Commission has the authority to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022 due to testing center closures or capacity issues related to COVID-19.

Subject Matter and Basic Skills Flexibilities

The budget agreement created new pathways for aspiring teachers to demonstrate they have the subject matter and basic skills knowledge necessary to begin teacher preparation. California expanded the choices available to teacher candidates by permitting, for the first time, relevant collegiate-level coursework to be used to meet the Basic Skills and Subject Matter requirements in lieu of the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST) and the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET). These pathways are substantially similar to the standalone legislation supported by the Commission [AB 312 \(Seyarto\) – Teacher Credentialing: Basic Skills Proficiency Test: Exemption](#) and [AB 437 \(Kalra\) - Teacher Credentialing: Subject Matter Competence](#).

Commission Administered Grants

The budget includes a \$492 million increase in one-time funds to the Commission’s budget to expand existing Classified School Employee and Teacher Residency grant programs, to establish the Computer Science Supplementary Authorizations grant, and to fund teacher preparation program revisions to the Teaching Performance Expectations.

The 2021-22 budget includes the following Commission-administered grants:

- **California Classified School Employees Teacher Credentialing Program** – \$125 million one-time Prop 98 General Fund, available for five years, to expand the existing California Classified School Employees Teacher Credentialing Program, which provides grants to TK-12 local educational agencies to recruit non-certificated school employees to become certificated classroom teachers.
- **Teacher Residency Program** – \$350 million one-time Prop 98 General Fund, available for five years, to expand the existing Teacher Residency Program, which supports locally sponsored, one-year intensive, mentored, clinical teacher preparation programs dedicated to preparing and retaining teachers in designated shortage fields in high-need communities. \$25 million of these funds are set aside for capacity building grants.
- **Computer Science Supplementary Authorizations Grant** – \$15 million one-time Prop 98 General Fund for grants to local educational agencies to support the preparation of current teachers to earn a supplementary authorization on their credential to teach computer science.
- **Teacher Preparation Program Updates** – \$2 million one-time General Fund for grants to align teacher preparation programs with the revised Teacher Performance Expectations and the updated Education Specialist Teacher Performance Expectations, and to include specific pedagogy related to dyslexia.

Other Commission Budget Provisions

- **Credential Fee Waiver** – \$20 million one-time General Fund to provide a credential fee waiver for individuals entering the TK-12 educator workforce in fiscal year (FY) 2021-22. The fee shall only be waived for a candidate’s initial application for specified credentials, permits and documents. It does not apply to renewal fees.
- **Accreditation Fee Suspension** – Suspends the assessment and collection of annual accreditation fees by the Commission for FY 2021-22, fees include but are not limited to any portion of the standard accreditation review cycle, initial institutional or program review, extraordinary accreditation activities, or actual costs related to accreditation activities.
- **Center on Teaching Careers** – \$1.7 million in one-time General Fund to the Commission for the Tulare County Office of Education to administer the Center on Teaching Careers.
- **Early Childhood Education Stakeholder Group** – The Commission may convene a group of stakeholders to assess how current transitional kindergarten credentialing requirements are being implemented and align with the recently released Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.

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: April 27, 2021

Status: Awaiting vote on Senate Floor

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: Pulled from consideration at request of the author

Position: Sponsor

Summary: This bill would give teaching credential candidates additional flexibility for demonstrating that they meet the statutory subject matter requirements (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.

Additional Notes: AB 437 was pulled from consideration after a substantially similar measure was enacted as part of the 2020-21 state budget agreement. This version is effective as of July 9, 2021.

[AB 312 \(Seyarto\) – Teacher Credentialing: Basic Skills Proficiency Test: Exemption](#)

Introduced: January 25, 2021

Last Amended: n/a

Position: Pulled from consideration at request of the author

Status: Passed Assembly Floor (76-0)

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.

Additional Notes: AB 312 was pulled from consideration after a substantially similar measure was enacted as part of the 2020-21 state budget agreement. This version is effective as of July 9, 2021.

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: June 24, 2021

Status: Passed Assembly Education (7-0)

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 to 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: July 8, 2021

Status: Passed Senate Education (5-0)

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: June 22, 2021

Status: Passed Senate Education (7-0)

Summary: This bill would establish the “Computer Science Access Initiative” grant program to be administered by 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.

Additional Notes: The 2021-22 state budget includes a substantively similar proposal called the Computer Science Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program, which would appropriate \$15 million in grants to local education agencies (LEAs) to incentivize current teachers to earn a supplementary authorization in Computer Science. Participating teachers would be eligible for up to \$2,500 from the LEA toward the costs of coursework, books, fees, and tuition.

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

Introduced: February 10, 2021

Last Amended: April 13, 2021

Status: Passed Senate Education (7-0)

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 recruiting, 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.

Early Childhood Education

[AB 22 \(McCarty\) - Childcare: preschool programs and transitional kindergarten: enrollment: funding](#)

Introduced: December 7, 2020

Last Amended: July 1, 2021

Status: Passed Senate Human Services (4-1)

Summary: This bill, in conjunction with related provisions of the TK-12 education trailer bill, would extend access to transitional kindergarten programs to all five-year-olds, phased in over four years. Transitional kindergarten is only available to a child who has their fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2 of the school year they would enter kindergarten. Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, the eligibility window would expand by two months per year and would be open to all children starting in 2025-26. Other provisions would provide additional funding to the Local Control Funding Formula base grant if specific conditions are met including a minimum school day length equivalent to that of grades 1-3, a 24 pupil class size maximum, specified adult to student ratios, and having at least one credentialed teacher with early childhood education experience defined as at least 24 units of early childhood education or child development coursework, professional experience in a preschool classroom setting, or holding a Commission-issued child development teacher permit.

Additional Notes: Related parts of this measure were enacted as part of the 2021-22 state budget agreement. One such provision delays, from August 1, 2021 to August 1, 2023, the requirement that credentialed teachers who are first assigned to a transitional kindergarten classroom after 2015 must have: a) at least 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both; b) professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children that is comparable to the 24 units of education; or c) a child development teacher permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Schools that do not meet this requirement will not be entitled to receive apportionment.

Professional Fitness

[AB 898 \(Lee\) - Criminal records: automatic conviction record relief](#)

Introduced: February 17, 2021

Last Amended: April 5, 2021

Status: Passed Senate Public Safety (5-0)

Sponsor: California Public Defenders Association

Summary: This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to electronically submit notice of conviction record relief (expungement) to both the transferring court and any subsequent receiving court in cases where probation has been transferred from one county to another. The bill prohibits any disclosure of these records, except to the person whose conviction was granted relief or a criminal justice agency. This prohibition applies to the Commission.